Elections 2010

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Villar, Erap, Bro. Eddie: Never say die

By Nikko Dizon, Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac

UNTIL THE COMPUTERS SPEW OUT election results, presidential contenders Manny Villar, Joseph Estrada, Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and the other presidential candidates are separately clinging to hope they'll somehow end up in Malacañang.

HILADA A11

Robin Padilla faces suit for condom ad METRO / A25

Britain faces hung parliament after passionately contested elections WORLD / A29

Mar, Jojo race for VP heats up NEWS / A2

Not quite Pacquiao, Dick settles for Manny Paksiw

By Edwin C. Tandoc Jr.

THE PADIMAS KAG HKO a change of heart and is endorsing Dick Gordon for president. Or, so it seemed.

Seen at the campaign rally for Sen. Richard

HOT QUOTE A15

SC: It's all systems go

Court junks petitions to postpone election, OKs automation

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora

AS FAR AS THE COUNTRY'S highest court is concerned, there is no more legal obstacle to the holding of the Philippines' historic first automated national elections.

In a special en banc session yesterday afternoon, the Supreme Court dismissed two petitions seeking to postpone Monday's elections after technical glitches in the vote-counting machines cropped up earlier this week, raising fears that the automated balloting might lead to chaos.

"It's all systems go," court administrator and spokesperson Midas Marquez told reporters when asked what the impact of the court's action was.

The 13-member high court unanimously dismissed the petition that counsel President Joseph Estrada filed a few hours earlier asking the tri-

SC: IT'S ALL A10

FAREWELL TO THE CHIEFS President Arroyo whose term ends on June 30 greets Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno who's retiring on May 17 during the inaugural of the Philippine Judicial Academy training center in Silang Crossing, Tagaytay City, on Friday. Ex-Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban looks on.

(JOHN CARLO CRUZ)

RELICS OF POLLS PAST For the first time in the country's election history, the ballot boxes of old are not going to be used. They're resting and in storage in a Pasay warehouse.

(GRACE PADILLA)

Comelec: We're 98-percent ready

By Kristine L. Alave, Marlon Ramos and Lolita B. Salaverria

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS is "98-percent" ready to conduct the Philippines' first automated elections on May 10, its spokesperson said yesterday.

"There is no conspiracy" to postpone the elections despite calls for the national exercise to be deferred amid technical problems had been fixed, James Jimenez said at a press conference.

Jimenez said the Comelec would comply with the Supreme Court ruling to disclose its preparations for the polls. "The [tribunal's] decision simply requires us to furnish the petitioning party with whatever documents they are asking for. Again, this is something we have done every single time someone asks anything from

COMELEC A15

The final push turns Metro into seas of green, yellow, orange

By Nikko Dizon, Philip Tabeza, Norman Bordadora and TJ Burgonio

THE MAIN CONTENDERS FOR THE Philippine presidency last night made their final push for votes in separate grand rallies that turned parts of the metropolis into seas of green, yellow and orange.

Nacionalista Party standard-bearer Sen. Manny Villar held his outing-de cramer in a vast field facing the once infamous symbol of poverty—Smokey Mountain—in Tondo,

THE FINAL A10

Weak justice system fuels Mindanao war

By Fernando del Mundo
Chief A Team

(Last of 13 parts)

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE GRIND slowly for a murdered Muslim army officer who had vowed to bring peace to his troubled Mindanao homeland.

Capt. Pearlsam Sudut Tamano was killed along with his aide, Pfc. Nabral L. Bara, on Dec. 15, 2005, in an ambush outside the Sitt Hall in Cagayan de Oro City.

THINK ISSUES -TEAM Report

Double murder charges were subsequently filed against Mayor Ameen Ismh Mangorsa of the remote Lanao del Sur town of Kapai, but the suspect remains free in spite of a string of three arrest warrants from as many judges. He is even running for reelec-

WEAK A15

Guard PCOS like your spouses, teachers told

GUARD THE PRECINCT COUNT OPTICAL scan (PCOS) machines like you would your spouses.

This was what Dr. Josefina Tamondong, director of the Department of Education (DepEd) in the Cordillera, told the region's public school teachers who are to serve as members of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) in the May 10 polls.

The teachers gathered on Thursday at the DepEd regional office in La Trinidad, Benguet, to take part in a pledge for clean elections.

Once they receive the PCOS machines

GUARD A20

THE ONE, THE ONLY

Elections 2010

JOHN CARLOS G. DE LOS REYES: What we cannot do, God will do for us, there's spiritual inspiration in us

JC DE LOS REYES says Ang Kapatiran will win because it has planted the seeds the country needs for others to reap.

By Jerome Aning

(Last of a series)

NOT A PERSON, BUT A personification.

People who will vote Ang Kapatiran Party's John Carlos "JC" de los Reyes for president on May 10 would not be choosing him for who he is but for what he embodies.

De los Reyes, who said his election machinery is "run by faith and conscience" instead of popularity and money, hopes to win by a miracle and the will of Divine Providence in the country's first automated polls.

The faith-based ARP offers the electorate—and all citizens—what it calls "a way out of the darkness" of traditional politics, which is dominated by political dynasties backed by guns, goons and gold.

The party, which has about 80,000 card-bearing members, has found its strongest supporters in the religious sector. De los Reyes and the Kapatiran has been endorsed by at least seven Roman Catholic bishops, Catholic

KEEPING THE FAITH Instead of a "ruling de amara," Ang Kapatiran's JC de los Reyes and party mates seek the blessings of Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles.

(EDWIN BACASNO)

groups such as the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life, and several Protestant and Muslim lay groups.

"One cannot really separate one's faith from one's political life. Kapatiran was founded as a

JEROME ANING A10

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO

9PM	9 11 1 13 22 3
6PM	4 3 6 7 5 7
2PM	9 7 7 6 7 4 4

MEGALOTTO 6/45: 7 9 11 14 24 41

P4,500,000.00

LP is dominant minority party

Comelec gives ruling following SC decision to void NP-NPC merger

By Kristine L. Alave

THE LIBERAL PARTY (LP) HAS BEEN DECLARED THE dominant minority party by the Commission on Elections (Comelec), which would allow it to obtain the election results from the precincts directly and immediately after the voting ends on May 10.

The Comelec en banc, in a resolution dated May 7, said the LP ranked 3rd overall by presidential candidate Sen. Benigno Aquino III, won the most points, against other contenders like the Nacionalista Party and the Partido ng Manang Pilipino (PMP), during the evaluation conducted by the poll body.

The dominant minority party designation was made a day after the Supreme Court voided the merger of the NP and the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), which the poll body had initially approved.

Track record

Under Comelec rules, the dominant majority and minority parties are determined by such factors as the number of members and track record.

With the NP/NPC partnership having been voided, the two parties are prohibited from combining their numbers to match the LP's membership records.

In its May 7 resolution, the Comelec said the LP had more candidates vying for elective posts in the election on Monday over all other opposition parties.

It said the LP has 7,103 candidates against the NP's 7,277. The PMP has 1,064 running under its banner.

While NP has more incumbent officials in the government with 2,071 compared to the LP's 1,980, this was not enough for it to overtake the LP in the rankings, the Comelec said.

The LP is also one of the oldest parties in the country, the resolution noted.

Computer terminal

The NP is fielding Sen. Manuel Villar as its presidential candidate and the PMP deposed President Joseph Estrada. Both are trailing Aquino in the presidential preference surveys.

As the dominant minority party, the LP will be allowed one of the two computer terminals connected to the server of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas and the British Broadcast Council for Responsible Voting, the Comelec's citizens' arm.

The other terminal will go to the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD, which was earlier declared the dominant majority party.

The terminals will receive election returns from the voting machines on the field, giving the parties data which they could use to watch for the rallies.

Watchers of the dominant parties are also given priority to be the polling precincts.

Aside from the dominant majority and minority parties, the Comelec also have identified the six other political parties in Monday's elections.

The NP Struggle, Pilipinas, sipa, Lakas ng Demokratikong Pilipino, PMP and Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas will be entitled to printed election returns.

The NP yesterday shrugged off the latest disappointment.

Doesn't matter

"Eyan, it doesn't matter anymore at iba pang bersasyon dun is a bona-fide declaration," said NP spokesperson Gilbert Remulla, who is also a senatorial candidate.

Remulla said the "only advantage of being a dominant minority" is having a screen at headquarters to monitor the election results.

He said the NP would be deploying its own people to the Philippine International Convention Center, where the Comelec has set up its canvassing center, to monitor the proceedings.

Remulla was confident that with this, the NP will be able to monitor the results in real time.

"There is really not much of an advantage of a dominant minority now, except for the title," he said. With Nikko Dizon

VP WORD WAR HEATS UP

Noynoy: No to 'Noy-Bi'; Clear road is with Mar

By Gil Cabacungan

ROXAS

LIBERAL PARTY CANDIDATE for vice president Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II is fighting to turn back the late surge of his closest rival, Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay of Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino, by moving to oust him from running presidential hopeful Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III in Binay's bailiwick.

Roxas was joined by Aquino in a press conference at the LP headquarters in Quezon City where the latter announced anew that Roxas was his only running mate as he tried to head off an aggressive push by Binay's camp for a "Noy-Bi" tieup.

Aquino said he was "obliged" to come out and reject the "Noy-Bi" endorsement of the party-list group Bayanihan, which he (Aquino) had a nominee, Mike Tuano, a former Kabataang Makabayan leader.

"I would like to know if he (Binay) is accepting this endorsement because I won't. I don't know his mind on this because it's been a long time since we talked," Aquino said.

Sure combination

The last time they met, Aquino offered Binay the post of Secretary of Interior and Local Government, in exchange for his withdrawing his candidacy. Binay refused the offer.

"It should be clear what direction we will take. And the clear road is with Mar Roxas, so if possible, let us not get carried away with these doubts. Let us not go to the probability that a Noynoy-Jojo combination is good, let us go to the sure and good combination with Mar," Aquino said.

Roxas grudgingly admitted that Binay had already caught up with him in voter-preference surveys. "I expected him to catch up but not this close," he said.

He said Binay's rapid rise in the surveys could have stemmed from the endorsement by Sen. Francis Escudero of a "Noy-Bi" ticket and the "black propaganda" waged against him.

But he said that he remained confident of winning the vice presidency, noting that recent surveys had not taken into consideration the endorsement of the Iglesia Ni Cristo of the LP ticket.

Winning together

"I am happy that Sen. Noynoy Aquino has more than 42 percent share. If all of those who will vote for Noynoy will vote for Sen. Mar, we will win together," Roxas said.

Escudero, however, suggested that Roxas was insecure about his chances.

He said, "What is the problem? Bakit ayaw ni Quiboloy to Gibo Teodoro, Magdalo group at Villar-Mat, and [Wowowin host] Willie Revillame in Villar-Roxas. There are many Lakas-Kampi leaders that are Gibo-Mar.

For Senator

●13. DEFENSOR SANTIAGO MIRIAM

PART 3: AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

- Magsaysay Award for Government Service, Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize, Magsaysay Awards Foundation
- "The 100 Most Powerful Women in the World," *The Australian* magazine
- TOYM Award for Law, (The Outstanding Young Man), Philippine Jaycees
- TOWNS Award for Law, (The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service), Philippine Lions
- Gold Vision Triangle Award for Government Service, YMCA Philippines
- Republic Anniversary Award for Law Enforcement, Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines
- Golden Jubilee Achievement Award for Public Service, Girl Scouts of the Philippines
- Award of Excellence in Public Service, Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches
- Award of Recognition for Public Service, Roman Catholic Archbishops and Bishops of Manila
- Woman of the Year Award, Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines
- Diamond Award for Excellence in the Legal Profession, University of the Philippines Portia Sorority
- Professional Award in Law, University of the Philippines Alumni Association

Named one of "The 100 Most Powerful Women in the World"

Binay tells Roxas: Stop basking in Noynoy's aura

VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JEJOMAR Binay has dared his closest rival, Sen. Mar Roxas, to be more straightforward "in declaring the date" of his Liberal Party standard-bearer, Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

"Be man enough. Stop hanging on to Noynoy's shirt," Binay said as the word war between the two vice presidential rivals heated up with the release on Thursday of the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey which showed Binay wiping out what had seemed like an insurmountable lead by Roxas.

The latest SWS survey showed Binay and Roxas tied for the No. 1 spot with 27 percent each with Loren Legarda dropping 12 percentage points to third with 13 points.

Binay, in a joint statement on Thursday, challenged the senator to come up with support for the Expanded Value Added Tax (EVAT) law which imposed a 12-percent tax on food and other essential goods.

Binay also hit back at Roxas for claiming "socio-ekonomiya (I have no accent)." The Makati mayor said on the contrary, the LP senator has not been candid about his vote for EVAT in 2005.

'Be man enough'

"Mar Roxas should be man enough to stand on his own track record and not cling to the skirt of Noynoy Aquino," he said. "He wants to bask in Noynoy's aura, but only when it is advantageous for him."

The Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino candidate described the remarks against him by Roxas and his camp "as desperate moves by a candidate who is used to having things his way."

"Roxas assumed wrongly that he is entitled to the vice presidency. Now that the people are telling him otherwise, he is resorting to the negative campaigning that he had condemned in the past," he said.

"The problem with Mar Roxas is that when Noynoy's survey numbers were down, he kept a safe distance from his running mate. But now that Noynoy's numbers are up, and I have managed to cut his lead substantially, he wants to be seen with Noynoy every chance," he said.

In contrast, Binay said he has always stood by his running mate, former President Joseph Estrada, even during the recalled Edsa II uprising which removed

BINAY

Estrada from the presidency.

Bond with Aquinos

"Roxas is trying to break my bond with the Aquino family. Yes, it is true that we have partied many in this election, but we were a blue Roxas can break the bond between me and the Aquino family," he said.

Binay's campaign sorties, which sometimes coincide with Roxas', have been marked by the senator's refusal to join him in the campaign trail.

Binay challenged Roxas to tell the television cameras in an ad he "said he the people decide if it is truthful."

"Everything in that image is factual. He said he applauded. He said he was an ally of Mr Arroyo in the EVAT. That's true. He never said the photos were taken during the signing of the EVAT law," Binay said.

Binay said he found it surprising that now nationwide aired the ad, called "Bali-ya," for one night, Mar decided to swap acting the following day. Another ad was not refused to air it.

"Is it true that pictures was carried on the networks? Roxas should answer this," he said.

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SAMSUNG

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12 months

SAMSUNG

3,075.00
12 months

SAMSUNG

832.92
12 months

LG

9,165.83
12 months

LG

9,999.17
12 months

TOSHIBA

8,249.17
12 months

TOSHIBA

2,499.17
12 months

TCL

3,055.28
10 months

TCL

15,995
only

TCL

1,166.25
12 months

TCL

749.58
12 months

SWIPE YOUR WAY TO GADGETS GALORE

Polaroid

1,165.83
6 months

Polaroid

1,832.50
6 months

SANYO

3,332.91
12 months

1,082.50
6 months

RICOH

1,832.50
6 months

Canon

4,991.67
6 months

Canon

2,162.50
12 months

Canon

2,079.17
12 months

HOME ELECTRICS AT EASY-PAY PLANS

SAMSUNG

5,665.83
6 months

LG

2,249.17
6 months

GREE Air Conditioners

2,232.50
6 months

American Home

858.17
6 months

SAMSUNG

916.25
12 months

9,579.17
12 months

2,649.17
6 months

SHARP

1,124.58
12 months

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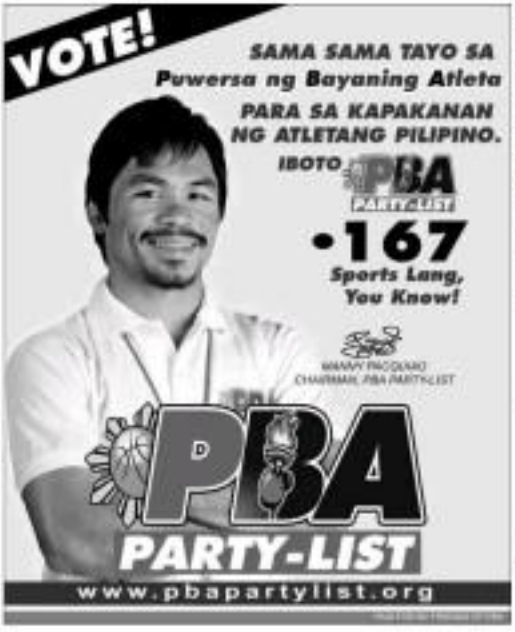

Erap not yet out of the woods

By Dona Pazolagan

OUSTED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA can go ahead with his bid to regain the presidency for now.

During a special full court session Friday, the Supreme Court did not issue a temporary restraining order against Estrada's candidacy.

Instead the 15-man high court unanimously gave Estrada and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) 10 days upon receipt of the order to comment on the disqualification petition filed by lawyer Estelito Mendoza.

The Constitution prohibits the president from running in "one reelection."

But the Comelec left it up to the electorate to decide whether Estrada, who was convicted of plunder but was immediately pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo, should return to Malacañang.

Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution, said the constitutional provision was not clear if a former president who did not finish his term may still run for reelection.

Even if the electorate would already be behind Estrada, Mendoza argued, the disqualification suit is not yet closed since the Supreme Court intends to have public the issue after Estrada and the Comelec have transcribed their official comments.

"(He) can still be disqualified," said Gutierrez.

Liquor ban starts midnight tonight

By Michel Ramos

THOSE CAMPING to go out and celebrate ahead of the May 10 voting had best dump down their party spirit for now.

The Philippine National Police warned yesterday it will be strictly implementing the nationwide election liquor ban imposed by the Commission on Elections.

At the stroke of midnight tonight, the selling and consuming of beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages will be prohibited in public places, said Chief Supt. Leocadio Espina, the PNP spokesperson.

Espina said the liquor ban will be imposed until midnight of Sunday.

"All PNP units have been directed to maximize scouts, monitors, chiefs and other players selling and serving liquor and enforce the Comelec resolution on the liquor ban," Espina said at a press at Camp Crame.

Exempted

According to Comelec Resolution 8700, only hotels and other establishments confirmed by the Department of Tourism as tourist centered are to be exempted from the liquor ban.

"But they should first answer prior written authority from the Comelec," Espina said.

Those caught violating the ban on alcoholic drinks have a maximum of six months imprisonment without probation, he said.

Convicted violators may also lose their right to suffrage and be ineligible for public office, he added.

Meanwhile, 91 policemen and 57 soldiers have been arrested since the start of the nationwide firearms ban on Jan. 10.

Gun ban

"These PNP personnel have already been charged with corresponding criminal and administrative cases. We will not condone the misbehavior of our people," Espina said.

He said a total of 2,503 violations of the gun ban were arrested in various checkpoints across the country, leading to the recovery of 2,388 firearms.

From Jan. 10 to May 7, Espina said the PNP has recorded 74 election-related violence, with 81 casualties, including at least 24 deaths.

FVR, Kris and Big Organizations Endorse Joey De Venecia

1. Before dawn one million people at the Pangasinan Bangus Festival last week, superstars Bro Jaguio and Roy Munich raised Joey de Venecia's hand, declaring their support for "Joey's courageous battle against corruption and poverty."

2. Before German and European diplomats and Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (CMD) Originals, former President Fidel Ramos proclaimed Joey de Venecia as "managing, matured, ang-angkla." "The two former Presidents, Ramos and Fiap Estrada have now joined Joey de Venecia.

3. Sustainable People's Coalition (SPC) senior leaders Prince Sen Juan, Jun Ilo, Rep. Mark Cojuangco, Jack Duavit, and Conrad Estrella and Gov. Manuel Ortega of La Union declared that SPC leaders would adopt Joey de Venecia.

4. LDP leaders led by Sen. Ed Angara, Secretary General Ed Panlaqui, Mayor Celso Lobregat of Zamboanga City, former Rep. Mike Romero of Negros Oriental proclaimed their support for Joey de Venecia.

5. Bishop Bonny Bonie, retired leader of the Bible Mode and the Alliance of Baptist Councils with more than 15 million members nationwide, adopted Joey de Venecia for "bringing broadband and education technology in the service of God and the Filipino Family."

6. The eighty-seven thousand by the Magdalo National Organization and led by Sen. Antonio Trillanes, with more than 500,000 members nationwide, have adopted Joey de Venecia for sharing the same courageous vision and idealism for the country.

7. The Guardians Organization under the popular Bro. Eraj Hernaez called on their hundreds of thousands of members nationwide to adopt Joey de Venecia for the Senate.

8. The Agricultural Party List Organization, AKOMA, represented by Rep. Roberto Pagdilao, Peter Ortega, and Chairman Rosendo So, with their councillors former members and cooperatives, are together pushing the agri-based revolution and Joey's Billion Trees Program.

9. The eleventy-based APEC national organization with one million members among electric cooperatives, under Rep. Ernesto Ramel and Edgar Valdez, Secretary General Lito Corral have adopted Joey de Venecia for the Senate.

10. The respected and active Federation of Free Workers (FFW) under its President Jose Mendoza and Vice-President Sonny Matula joined the other party-list and civil society organizations in declaring for Joey de Venecia III.

The Bandwagon for Joey de Venecia III has begun

A. Civil society leaders led by columnist Manuel Quezon III, former Ambassador to Washington Albert del Rosario, and ex-DILG Sec. Cesar Narvasa and many others have endorsed Joey de Venecia.

B. Northern Luzon Alliance, Region 1, Region 2, Bicolandia and Cordillera leaders representing Lakas-CMD, LP, NP, NPC leaders led by President Fox Singson and incoming president Victor Ortega crossed party lines and declared for Joey de Venecia. They are joined by Reps. Roque Ablan, Carlos Padilla, Florencio Vargas, Manuel Mamba, Edwin Uy, Rodito Albano, Giorgidi Aggabao, Vicente Agbayani, Art Celeste, Thomas Dumpit, Rachel Arenas, Anne Cua, Ronald Singson, Cecilia Luna, and Salvacion Fariñas.

C. Christian-Muslim Leaders in Mindanao led by Reps. Rufus Rodriguez, Vicente Emano, R. Uy, Mayor Tomas Arnaiz, (Caguyan de Oro), Rep. Vince Garcia, Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario, Reps. Almario Armstrong, Franklin Bautista, Manuel Zamora, representing Davao City and the Davao Provinces, Gov. Ayo Barbers, Rep. Pidtang, joined with Muslim leaders, Deputy Speaker Simeon Datumanong, Reps. Munir Arbison and Mari, Mayor Muslimin Sarua, Gov. Sf. Adiong, Rep. Pax Mangudadatu, Reps. Dalidaing and Dumarpa, Ambassador Ching Ali and Undersecretary Gene Mamondiong, and others as they cross party lines for Joey de Venecia.

D. TEKODAP, the powerful Jeepney Drivers and Operators Association and Tricycle operators of Metro Manila with a national network led by Zeny Maranan and hundreds of thousands of members are uniting and campaigning for Joey de Venecia III.

E. Visayas - Head Political Leaders, Visayas party leaders, led by Rep. Tony Cuenco, Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar, Mayor Tomasy Osmeña of Cebu City, Rep. Ed Gullas, Rep. Ramon Durano, Rep. Pilar Daza, Reps. Dodong Cordilla, Joe Tan Ramirez, Iloilo leaders Reps. Feopz Bross, Janet Garin, Boku, Napkin, Majority Leader Art Defensor, and Eboil leaders Rep. Edcel Lagman, Rep. Antonio Kho, Gov. Amy Sotto, Gov. Nando Gonzales, Rep. Salvador Escudero, Rep. Al Dichaves, Gov. Amy Typoco, cross party lines to endorse Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino Senatorial nominee Joey de Venecia.

F. Metro Manila leaders Rep. Ed Zialcita, Rep. Jimmy Lopez, ex-Mayor Mel Lopez, Rep. Roman Romulo, Rep. Jose Rizza of Pasay City, Rep. Vincent Crisologo, Rep. Amie Seaton, Rep. Mat Defensor, Rep. Nanette Daza, Rep. Harry Angping, Reps. Teodoro and Del de Guzman, Mayor Prudie Tinga, Rep. Jack Duavit and Rep. Sue Rodriguez have declared for Joey de Venecia III.

G. Influential Evangelist Brother Mike Velarde and the El Shaddai mixed Joey de Venecia's hand in support of Joey's candidacy before thousands in Dagupan City.

H. The CBCP, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, representing more than 100 Bishops nationwide, endorsed Joey de Venecia together with eight other senatorial nominees for their pioneering and defending the pro-life position of the Catholic Church.

I. The largest and most influential labor organization TUCP, headed by President Kike Mendoza and Party-list Rep. Raymond Mendoza joined Joey de Venecia on their campaign trail and are campaigning for him.

J. The respected Federation of Free Farmers led by Reps. Lorna Silverio-Bayon, with members nationwide, has declared for Joey de Venecia III.

K. Independent IT experts monitoring the election Obet Verzola, Dreza Laguna, and Sonny Valdez, and Stanford Chair and former BSP Gov. Jose L. Cuisia have praised Joey de Venecia for his role in helping ensure clean and honest elections after he successfully secured and analyzed Comelec documents on the current poll automation controversy.

12 Joey De Venecia SENATOR

No surprises: Bong, Jinggoy still lead race for senator

RE-ELECTIONIST SENATOR RAMON "Bong" Revilla Jr. and Jinggoy Estrada remained first and second, respectively in the fourth race in the latest Social Weather Station survey conducted from May 2 to 5.

Revilla garnered 61 percent and Estrada, 58 percent, even as they each lost 3 points from the previous SWS survey conducted on April 16-19.

The two party-list groups were likely to muster at least one seat in the House of Representatives, according to the latest SWS survey. Also liked Trillanes Party (Akbl, 5.64 percent) emerged on top, followed by Bahay Hayaan Yumaslang (Buhay, 5.11 percent), and coalwhile Bantay, 4.88 percent, party-list group from Bikol (5 percent).

The rest of the nine erstwhile candidates ascribed in "doubt about the 12th place" were Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago (Allpeace, 4.66), Senate Senate President Franklin Drilon (3.9 percent), Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile (3.6 percent), Sen. Pia Cayetano (3.4 percent), Akbayan Rep. Ferdinand "Kaka bong" Marcos Jr. (3.1 percent), former Senators Tessie Aquino Oreta (2.9 percent), Ralph Recto (2.9 percent) and Serge Osmeña III (2.9 percent), and Sen. Lito Lapid (2.6 percent).

Winning circle

SWS noted that the first 3 senators have consistently topped the survey since March, while the first 10 senators have already been in the "winning circle" since early December, according to a report that came out in Business World, which has first printing rights to the survey.

Competing for 12th spot were: Batchoy Rep. Teodoro "Teddy" Casiño III (2.2 percent), businessman Jose "Joey" De Venecia III (2.1 percent), Akbayan party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel (2.0 percent), former Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla (2.0 percent), Mandaluyong City Rep. Benjamin Pulido "Abalos" Reyes (1.9 percent), Bonta Reyes (1.6 percent), Marine Col. Ariel Querubin (1.6 percent), and Oscarolfo Hamoud (1.6 percent).

Topping the list of 57 party-list groups was ABS, a multi-sectoral organization and regional group that advocates the welfare and empowerment of fisher of fishfarmers. Created in 2006, the organization catered to the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of Typhoon "Reming." It occupies for the May 2010 elections are Christopher V. Co, entrepreneur and president of the Filipino-Chinese Fire Wokers Bayanihi and lawyer Rodel M. Bancodio and Alfredo A. Garbo Jr.

Aside from BOB, Bahay and Bayan Muna, other party-list groups likely to get at least one congressional seat were: Alliance Citizens Action Party (Alliance, 4.61 percent), Coalition of Associations of Senior Citizens in the Philippines (Senior Citizens, 4.07 percent), Gabriela Women's Party (Gabriela, 3.88 percent), Cooperative-National Confederation of Cooperatives (CCONFEDCCCI, 3.49 percent), 1-Ur Conservative Alliance for Rural Energy (1-CARE, 3.22 percent), Advocacy for Barkin Empowerment through Action, Cooperation, and Resources Research Educational Relation (A Teacher, 3.12 percent), Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines (AGAP, 2.9 percent), Abono (2.75 percent), Buhl (2.35 percent) and Ma Nhay (2.16 percent). With a report from GMANetwork.com

118,000 overseas Pinoys cast votes

By Dona Pazzibugan

SO FAR, ABOUT 118,000 FILIPINOS working abroad have cast their ballots in the 2010 elections, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Voter turnout in the overseas absentee voting reached 118,000 as of 9 a.m. on May 7. This number has surpassed the 81,732 voter turnout for the 2007 elections, according to the DFA's Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat (OAV-OAVS).

Filipinos abroad have until 6 p.m. on May 10 (Manila time) to cast their ballots either personally or by mail in embassies and consular offices.

The Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong has so far received the biggest number of votes cast—23,614. The Philippine Embassies in Riyadh And 8,569 votes, and in Singapore, 7,284.

Other foreign service posts with the highest turnout of voters are the Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah with 5,714; the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Al Khobar with 4,889; the embassy in Kuwait with 3,963; the consulate general in Los Angeles with 3,146; the embassy in Abu Dhabi with 2,703; the consulate general in Dubai with 2,527; and the consulate general in New York with 2,392.

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₱978 — Manila to Legaspi
₱1,088 — Manila to Cebu or Kalibo

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Davao to Zamboanga

₱1,288 — Davao to Iloilo

₱1,988 — Manila to Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Calbayog, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos, Ozamiz, Siargao, Surigao, Zamboanga or Pagadian (NEW!)

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SC overrules Comelec, allows Mitra, Jalosjos son to run

Manifesto of Support

We, the undersigned, Central and National Leaders of the GUARDIANS INTERNATIONAL (GI) INCORPORATED, involving the various national organizations as branch/member of this fraternal confraternities with total bearing members numbering to more or less 2.5 Million nationwide, DO HEREBY FINALLY MANIFEST our unconditional and unsolicited support to the candidacy of Senator Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III as President of the Republic of the Philippines.

We recognize his leadership agenda and his platform of administration as to conducive to the Filipino People and to the heart of our brethren. His principles are in consonance to what we are fighting for.

In Witness Whereof, We hereby jointly affix our signature to this Manifesto of our unwavering support to the objectives and ideals of Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, this 16th day of April in the year of our Lord 2010, in the Province of Quezon, Philippines.

Guardians International Party-list
#10 SA BALOTA
1-GANAP
GUARDIANS

By Dona Pazolygon

THE SUPREME COURT ALLOWED THE administration candidacies of Abraham Khalil Mitra in Palawan and of Sharee Agnes Jalosjos in Zamboanga Sibugay overturning the Commission on Elections' order disqualifying them for lack of residency.

During a special full court session yesterday afternoon, the Supreme Court unanimously granted Mitra and Jalosjos' petitions for a "status quo ante (the way things were before)" earlier so their votes would be counted while the Supreme Court is resolving the issue of their disqualification.

"This means they can run in the 2010 elections," court spokesperson Midas Marquez said.

Mitra, son of the late House Speaker Ramon Mitra, is an incumbent Palawan congressman running for governor against businessman Jose Ingles Alvarez.

The Comelec had disqualified him for failing to meet the required residency based on the petition of lawyers Gonzales and Orlando Ballvar, Jr. They argued that Mitra resides in Puerto Princesa City whose residents are no longer vote for Palawan governor because it has opted to be a component city of the province.

Jalosjos, son of former Zamboanga del Norte congressman and convicted rapist Romeo Jalosjos, had been disqualified by the Comelec as gubernatorial candidate in Zamboanga Sibugay due to lack of residency.

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GUEST CANDIDATES
ROMMEL 'ABE' ABESAMIS
FRANCISCO 'BOY' CALALAY
ALY MEDALLA
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COPW Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

COPW URGES VOTERS TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE AND BE VIGILANT. CONCEPCION ENDORSES AQUINO-ROXAS, ENRILE.

Raul T. Concepcion, Chairman of the Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW), is pleased that the **Iglesia Ni Cristo has endorsed the tandem of Noynoy Aquino and Mar Roxas.**

This is an affirmation that **what the country needs now is a moral leadership that will demonstrate a new kind of politics and governance that will inspire our people.**

This is the most crucial elections in our country's history and our choice of our new leaders will determine whether **we can finally move forward in the next 6 years or continue to lag behind other countries in the region in terms of growth and competitiveness.**

WHY AQUINO-ROXAS, ENRILE:

All three share the same values and advocacies of Consumer & Oil Price Watch as shown by their track records.

The entire country is hopeful that **Senator Aquino possesses and will demonstrate the same degree of integrity and love of country and democratic processes that have become the legacy of his late parents, President Cory and Senator Ninoy.**

Our new leaders face the herculean task of **restoring the people's trust in government that has been so deeply eroded** in the years following President Cory's and Ramos's terms.

The problem of corruption has worsened and has become the biggest stumbling block to our economic progress and global competitiveness.

With Mar Roxas acting as Senator Aquino's chief economic advisor, we are hopeful that Mar Roxas can transform the BIR and the Bureau of Customs where substantial revenue leakage has been going on for the past decades.

Noynoy Aquino can concentrate on eradicating graft and corruption in other government agencies such as the DPWH, DOTC, DepED and the local governments.

All this will send a strong signal that **there will be a much needed transparent and accountable governance** – something that has been sorely lacking.

COPW urges our new president to reach out to our people and determine their most pressing needs then institute solutions and reforms and push them with utmost transparency, accountability, and decisiveness – perhaps emulating President Obama in this regard.

RAUL T. CONCEPCION

Visit the COPW website. Log on to copw.net

Comply with poll results, Bangit tells armed forces

By Jocelyn R. Uy

BAGUIO 71 HOURS before rebellion protests upon all new the ensuing armed Forces Chief Gen. Delfin Bangit assembled the military's top officers to plot them his course in straddling on the proper action for soldiers to take after the May 10 balloting.

At a command conference yesterday, Bangit directed all AFP commanders and headquarters officials to comply with the outcome of the vote.

"The mindset of the AFP after elections is to respect and support the result of the elections," Bangit said, enumerating a list of "basic that are paramount" to the military organization as far as the elections are concerned.

The military's preparations for Election Day have been finalized and "we realize our commitment to do our best," he told the command conference.

Bangit reiterated to the assembly that the AFP will stand by the Constitution and the people, that it will not seek to form a military junta or take over the government and that its actions in the coming days will conformably be in accordance with that of the police.

Meeting with generals

Earlier yesterday Bangit met with the directorate of Generals and Flag Officers (light), composed of active and retired generals of the police and the military, to give the same directives.

"We will not make decisions for the people. We cannot intervene with the decision makers... we will prevent bloodshed and when we are pushed to the wall, we will still practice self-preservation," Bangit told the group.

He told reporters that he had called the meeting to ask the retired generals and police officers to help in "keeping the retired forces in the right direction."

A supposed Iconoclast of President Macapagal-Arroyo who took over the military's top post two months ago, Bangit has had to deal with suspicions that he is part of an alleged plan to rig the elections in order to prolong Mrs Arroyo's term beyond June 30.

He has steadfastly dismissed such rumors, giving assurances that the AFP would help deliver a transparent and credible elections on May 10.

Everything OK

The command conference, which followed a National Security Council meeting, was also attended by Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Versosa, Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales and Executive Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

Versosa reported that policemen deployed to oversee the elections on Monday have not so far encountered any "major problems."

"Everything is going okay despite the glitches that occurred in the past few days," he said, referring to the errors that occurred in the automated counting machines.

He urged his colleagues not to be persuaded by "negative reports" or "misinformation" should it become necessary to restrict to some manual procedures to complete the voting process on May 10.

Pulse Asia asks QC court to junk Dick's suit

By Julie M. Aurelio

PULSE ASIA HAS ASKED A QUEZON CITY court to dismiss Sen. Richard Gordon's P650,000 civil complaint against it, saying the Bagumbayan-Volunteers Party presidential candidate should have first brought his suit against polling organizations in the Commission on Elections.

Judge Bayani Vargas earlier dismissed Gordon's petition for a preliminary injunction against Pulse Asia and Social Weather Stations to stop them from conducting election surveys on the ground that the court did not have jurisdiction.

However, the court opted to maintain jurisdiction over the part of the complaint relating to civil damages, saying it would decide what damages to award the senator, should he win the suit.

Pulse Asia said the court erred in deciding to retain the suit for civil damages.

It said that under the doctrine of prior resort, as explained in a 2000 Supreme Court ruling, the Quezon City court is barred from taking cognizance of the claim for damages "until after the issue has been brought before the Comelec.

"Considering that, this court does not have jurisdiction over any ancillary consequential or incidental cause of action such as damages arising from the principal cause of action," Pulse Asia said in its motion.

It said that Gordon's most immediate remedy was to ask redress before the Comelec and exhaust all possible actions before asking the court to intervene.

Gordon wanted the case dismissed from conducting pre-election surveys as he said these surveys tended to condition the minds of voters as to whom to vote for.

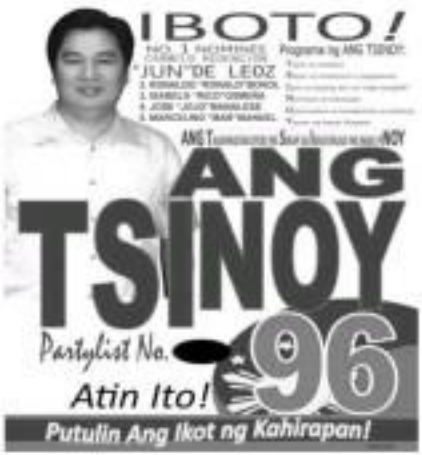
He said that he was always placing fifth in the pollsters' surveys despite being warmly received by the people during his campaign sorties.

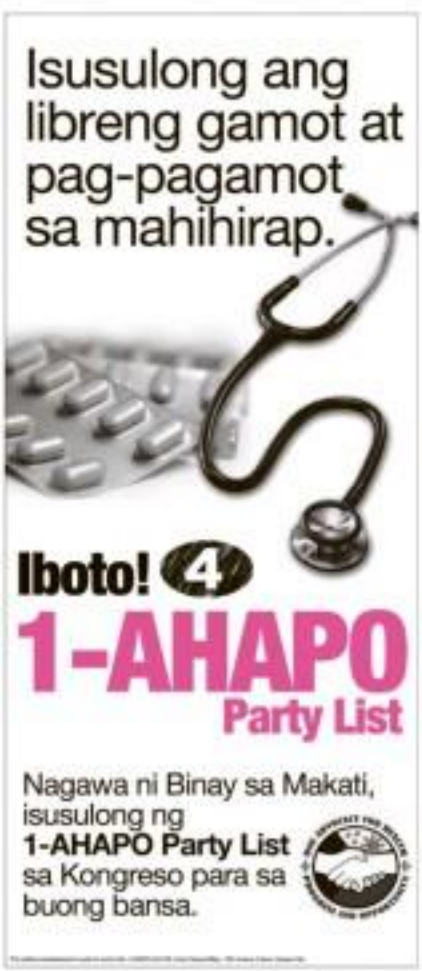
Pulse Asia argued that its supposed violations were specialized matters which fall under the expertise of the Comelec as the enforcer of all election laws and rules, and that such matters are beyond the court's competence.

"I said the court should allow the Comelec to issue a relief first, after which the court can decide whether or not to take jurisdiction over the remaining issues.

GORDON

"Pulse must ought to be taken to the Comelec first to determine the alleged violations committed against the Fair Elections Act before resort could and ought to be taken in the court for permanent injunction as well as damages," he said.





THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, May 8, 2010
5th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 15:1-6
Gospel: Jn 15:18-21

Jesus said to his disciples, "If the world hates you, remember that the world hated me before you. This would not be as if you belonged to the world, because the world loves its own. But you are not of the world since I have chosen you from the world. Because of this the world hates you.

"Remember what I told you: 'No servant is ever greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you, too. Have they kept my teaching? Will they show mercy yours? All this they will do to you for the sake of my name because they do not know the One who sent me."

Commentary:

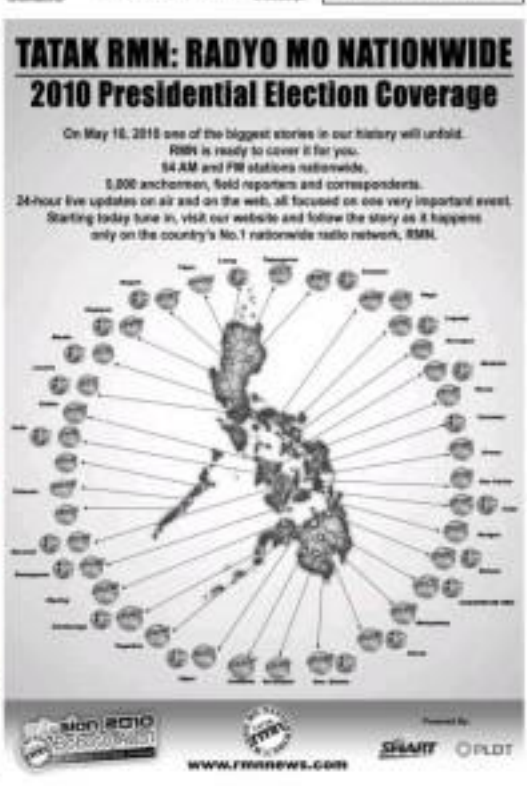
"I chose you from this world and you do not belong to it; that is why the world hates you."

As we witness and listen to more like Jesus, I will begin to think less like the world around me.

I will begin to know more about the poor and demanded.

But that also means that the world will think less of me, too.

Then who will I die?



Sotto overwhelmed by endorsements

PASAY, May 7, 2010 — Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto on Friday said he was overwhelmed that support of various sectors and personalities had surpassed support for his senatorial bid despite the disadvantages that he had to overcome in conducting a solo campaign.

"I am very happy and grateful to every one who has shown their support. It is not easy running a senatorial campaign on my own but what made me persevered are the people who had openly endorsed and supported me," the lone Nacionalista Party's Coalition senatorial candidate said.

Those his stand like Sharon Cuneta, Kris Aquino, Vic Sotto, Joey de Leon and Boy Abunda, who were part of television commercials endorsing Sotto, had openly endorsed and campaigned for Sotto's return to the Senate.

Also supporting Sotto are the personnel Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), the Congregation of Jesus Christ of Latter Apostle C. Quiboloy, the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI) supreme Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, Isiguel's Angara and Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero.

Among the other sectors that also endorsed Sotto are Migrante International, Gabriela party-list, Pinoy Mabuhay, Lakas ng Bayaning Pilipino (LBP), Magdalo and the Task Force on Bantay Eleksyon.

"It's tough campaigning alone but the response of the people is truly inspiring," Sotto said. "I know the Filipinos will make the right choice on May 10."

Sotto, who principally authored and sponsored 180 laws, resigned from the Senate Majority Blend as majority to 10, saying he wanted to strengthen the hour in the war against illegal drugs and drug abuse.

"My passion is to help solve our drug problems. A country cannot be strong where the problem on drugs is slowly crippling our people. We cannot just focus on the economy and graft and corruption alone," Sotto added.

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The final push turns Metro into seas of green, yellow, orange

From page A1

while survey front-runner Sen. Benigno Aquino III brought his "yellow Fiesta" to the Quezon City Memorial Circle, where he and several city mayors danced on a stage with comedian Pokwang.

GMA not invited

Tens of thousands of supporters of former President Joseph Estrada and his Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino massed on the land owned by the University of Makati, which administration candidate Gilbert Teodoro is eyeing for final show of force at the Rizal Track and Field Stadium in Guadalupe, signaling a last push to show the world that Filipinos would not be guided by opinion surveys in choosing their president.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was not invited to the rally of Teodoro, the candidate of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD, because of her lowly statutory party affiliation.

Milan, the only billionaire among the candidates, chose Tondo for his final rally to symbolize the theme of his campaign, that a once poor Tondo boy like him could rise to aspire for the country's highest position.

Early speakers

As of press time, Milan had yet to give his speech. Early speakers included Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino Senate bet Jinggoy Estrada and his Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino mascot Ismol, Bautista mayor and Lito Atienza, KP spokesperson Gilbert Remulla, reelectionist Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, and former military officer Ramon "Mon-Mon" Mitra.

The 300-round included mostly Tondo residents. Militant groups like Bayan Muna and Gabriela, as well as the Sandugong Magbubo, sent contingents.

The 300's swung its entourage to Quezon City for Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's (Rodel Road 10), in U-Int. It could reportedly hold up to 100,000 people, but as of early evening, not even half of the place had been filled up.

Showbiz personalities like comedians Joe Vinzon and Cesar Montano and singer Sharon Cuneta dropped out using numbers to celebrate the event.

Rise on a stretcher

At the LP rally, senatorial candidate Risa Hontiveros had to be taken off the stage on a stretcher after she tripped while speaking at around 6 p.m.

"Only a few more nights and we'll have Sec. Romulo in Malacañang," Hontiveros was saying before the accident.

The 36-year-old Hontiveros is yellow, wore in an upbeat mood as the senator's sister, TV star Kris Aquino, and Pokwang entertained them.

Manila, QC mayors

Aquino, his running mate Mar Roxas and Quezon City and Manila mayors Feliciano Belmonte and Alfredo Lim danced with Pokwang to one point.

Also present were Aquino's other mates, Bidding Pimentel and Vice Bernie Wilt, the popular TV announcer Korina Sanchez-Roxas, entered both stage.

Yellow and orange

The PMP crowd is yellow and orange, started arriving at the Makati university campus late afternoon.

"We are here because in the University of Makati, one of the examples of the achievements of Erap," PMP senatorial candidate Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan, referring to the Makati mayor who has ranged for second place in the last opinion surveys conducted by the Social Weather Stations.

Binay has been Makati's mayor for some 20 years now. He is running on a united ticket platform.

Pangilinan also had arrived at the Makati rally as of press time with 19-year-old Ria Lim, daughter of PMP senatorial candidate and reelectionist officer Ding Lim, Danilo Lim, and former Negros Occidental Rep. Apolonia Lozada.

Ria, who has represented her detained father in the campaign, crossed the crowd with a song.

"My father is just telling the truth," Ria said, explaining why his Arroyo administration had his father detained and why he couldn't be with the crowd last night.

The PMP rally was to be part-ly, party-goers noting its connect in the metropolis. Its last campaign rally is scheduled in Manila tonight.

Uphill campaign

Teodoro mailed his uphill campaign in the yesterday at noon with an impassioned appeal to the electorate: Choose the best candidate because the whole world is watching.

"I've seen how beautiful this country is. It can go very far. It can take back the golden opportunity to stand up, to cleanse the right one, and heal the division. This is a chance

John Carlos G. de los Reyes: What we cannot do, God will . . .

From page A1

response to the Church's call way back in 1991 for the laity to participate actively and lead in the renewing of politics, in accordance with the values of the Gospel." De los Reyes said in a reply to questions on whether GOD was violating the constitutional doctrine of separation of church and state.

In 2006, the Pope himself, De los Reyes recalled, exhorted all the clergy to guide the laity on the formation of just social structures through the "purification of reason and the awakening moral force."

The party's reformists and "God-centered" thrust is expressed partly in its introductory line of "principled politics" wherein those who govern are driven by servanthood, transparency, accountability, competence and integrity while those who are persecuted aspire to be statesmen, servant-leaders and courageous.

Chosen over 40 nominees

Throughout the campaign, De los Reyes traveled to nine of the provinces where he had the preferred nomination, participation in forums and guestings in radio and television so that more voters could listen to him speak. He now hopes that voters would consider his platform of governance and then they finally cast their ballots.

De los Reyes was chosen by the Kapatiran's National Executive Committee in party standard-bearer—over those of other nominees—after a grueling three-hour interview last year.

An Olongapo City councilor and member of the influential Bonifacio clan that has traded it over the place for two generations, he, De los Reyes admits to "not coming from" political dynasties, whose immediate connection is one of his priorities should he win.

The youngest of the presidential candidates, he regards political dynasties as the perpetuators of poverty and corruption in the country.

In the 2007 midterm elections, De los Reyes was the only one among 27 Kapatiran personnel and local candidates who got elected.

He noted, however, that he is being a "guest candidate" of the ticket of his uncle, Olongapo Mayor James Gordon, Jr., earmarked to his seat. De los Reyes won the second highest number of votes for councilor.

Crusade vs dynasties

De los Reyes' crusade against political dynasties has made him the enemy of his own relatives since his entrance as political figure on the west coast from his clan's long-time involvement in Olongapo City's political history.

It was from being part of the leading political clan—one usually headed by his uncle and fellow presidential candidate Sen. Richard "Dick" Gordon—that De los Reyes learned how to relate with other people and become involved in public service.

De los Reyes' mother, Bautista-Richard and Junior Ar's sister Thess before Jaime Sr., was mayor of Olongapo from 1964 until his assassination in 1967. His wife Milelis was mayor from 1987 to 1472. Richard became mayor three terms between 1988 and 1995.

De los Reyes was first elected councilor in 1998 at the age of 25, under the Nacionalista Party ticket of Richard's wife Katy and his cousin Dyan Cajudo, who both were assassinated two months respectively.

"At first I admired the many good things that the Gordons did to the people, such as freeing the Subic Freeport Zone. But then, it came to dislike the way the Gordons were imposed from one family member to another, as if the post is inherited," he recounted.

Frowns on patronage

He added that the party did not even have a set of platforms and principles to give to its members, particularly the neophytes like him, from which they could learn their own political agenda and draw their inspiration in public service.

"We had party conventions in Manila, but they were usually parties—with dancing and eating. I was dismayed because I realized that it was not the kind of politics that I want. I want to serve them as it was an opportunity for me," he said.

De los Reyes said he frowned at the persecution of the Gordons' political enemies and the rampant "patronage politics," wherein public funds, projects and favors are given only to the local people and supporters.

In 1998, De los Reyes, influenced by his father Antonio, joined the Bisig at Pagbabago Movement (Bipag) campaign for Willy Molino. This was the core of the Bagumbayan Party, which fielded businessman Santiago Bautista and religion crusader Reynaldo Pacheco for the presidency and vice presidency in 1998.

De los Reyes did not seek reelection in 1998 and, despite Bautista and Pacheco's defeat, pursued his energy into helping the formation of the Alliance for the Common Good, which was envisioned to be viewed as a political party under the name Bagumbayan in 2004 with Bautista as frontrunner.

Bagumbayan, however, did not participate in the 2004 race as it wanted to further strengthen its party's organization. The following year, a vacancy occurred in the Olongapo council. De los Reyes was encouraged by the mayor, James Jr., and the Los Reyes clan's opponents to file the post by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Critical of own clan

While he was reelected in 2007, De los Reyes became critical of the Gordon administration and began to have conscientious conflicts with the local opposition councilor, Legis Lopezano-Gruez, particularly in the crafting of appropriations ordinances.

De los Reyes became chairman of the council's human rights committee. He instituted a program that gave free legal assistance to indigents in his constituencies. He presided over the swearing-in of Barangay Human Rights Action Centers, which are envisioned by law to be the protection and promotion of human rights violations at the barangay level.

He spoke out against illegal drugs, and the investigation of alleged human rights violations on the part of the police and the Subic-campaigned against illegal fish traps, opposed the opening of more casinos in Subic, and joined protests against a proposal to set up a coal power plant.

The proposal was also filed several times before the Office of the Ombudsman against several high-ranking government officials serving under mayors James Jr.

De los Reyes said he would continue to be close to Olongapo like the law on political dynasties since this was provided under the 1987 Constitution. To give equal opportunities to everyone who wanted to serve in the government, rules against members of the same family succeeding one another in a public position or serving simultaneously in the government, whether elected or appointed, should be adopted.

"Congress' abject failure to enact such a law up to the present time is a sad commentary on our political parties and their leaders. This simply means that our political parties and their members are loyal only to their families, with a sense of clubbishness at all. This simply means that there are no responsible political parties in the Philippines. And this is one of the reasons why we are where we are," he said.

De los Reyes said that if he wins, he is even willing to quit the presidency if his term has not ended after him. However, he added that he is pessimistic that such a law would ever be passed, saying most of the current lawmakers are themselves the products of political dynasties and would not want to cut themselves out of office.

Brother also running

His stand against dynasties gained him the enmity of most of the presidential candidates who come from political clans, such as the Gordons.

"It's hard for our being alienated by my own family. Do you think I have Sunday picnics and outings with the Gordons now?" he said.

Due to his stand against political dynasties, De los Reyes could not even campaign for his own brother, who named James, who is running for councilor in Olongapo under the Gordons' ticket.

De los Reyes' only consolation, he said, is that he is now with people who believe in the same principles as he does.

"They're no battle now," he said, referring to his running mate Dominador "Jun" Chipeco Jr., the party's nominal candidates and other party officials.

Grateful to wife

De los Reyes said he was also grateful to his wife Dorin, who, although initially aghast at her husband's foray into politics, is now supporting his presidency, ended up becoming his principal supporter during the campaign.

"You know, sweetheart, we're okay. We have enough and not children are okay, but the church, and we could assure as people out there who need our more. And there comes a time when you give back to God the blessings He gave you," he recalled telling Dorin when she asked him about his political plans.

While De los Reyes was out campaigning, Dorin, a yoga instructor, took care of their children Ismael, Santiago and Bodong. Dorin also finds time to run family business, a hotel in Subic, a clothing station and a brick-making factory he inherited from his father.

The second of four siblings, De los Reyes said he was a lover and preferred books over playmates. He and his parents, who are devout Catholics, taught him to read the Bible.

Priesthood

De los Reyes said he was deeply influenced by his uncle, activist "Tonyo" de los Reyes, and Barbara Gordon, who co-founded charismatic groups such as the Bukid Covenant Community and Sentido. He himself considered becoming a priest.

De los Reyes enrolled at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, where he earned a degree in Theology in 1993.

He said his 1995 defeating mentor was when he finally got into trouble after he, fellow students and priests from the university held a demonstration in front of an abortion clinic.

The police dispersed the demonstration and the De los Reyes said he was "saved" by the priests from the churches of the lawmen, who would surely have had him deported since foreigners are not allowed to join political activities in the United States.

"My principal dreams was to influence lots of people to do good and to help others. I thought I'd become a priest but I took a different path," he said.

After returning to the Philippines, his grandmother Sancha Olongapo's father's friend of mayor, urged him to join politics, saying he could still serve people that way.

When he took a break from politics towards the end of the 1990s, he worked for promoted Kapatiran throughout the country. De los Reyes took up graduate studies at the University of the Philippines, earning a master's degree in public administration in 1999. He later took up law at St. Louis University in Baguio City, earning his degree in 2003.

Philosophy instructor

Before joining politics, De los Reyes was a philosophy instructor at the University of Asia and the Pacific. He was also the lead animator of Bukidnon Philippines, a movement to pro-actively advance the social agenda of the Church, and executive director of the Breaking the Yoke of Poverty Foundation, which provided free shelter for poor families in Olongapo.

De los Reyes' involvement with the Church also led him to support the reproductive health bill currently pending in Congress.

De los Reyes said the Kapatiran's opposition to the bill is not based on religion but on adherence to a pro-God, pro-life and pro-family platform.

The councilor said a reproductive health law should focus more on ensuring the health of pregnant women rather than promoting contraceptive and artificial family planning methods. The country's reproductive health policies should also not be dictated by international groups and foreign governments, he added.

De los Reyes blamed his opposition to artificial contraception to his father who encountered his experiences as the first executive director of the Population Commission under President Ferdinand Marcos, who urged Filipino women to limit their children to three.

After promoting not only natural but also artificial means of family planning to the countryside with goals of Marcos' New Society, De los Reyes said his father Antonio was conscience-stricken. Artificial family planning was against the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Tragedy strikes

In 1985, tragedy struck the family after a drug-crazed man broke into their house. Fatally bludgeoned De los Reyes' 18-year-old sister Maria Lourdes with a tool pipe and proceeded to rape their maid, who was also killed.

The murders affected the family deeply. De los Reyes said his mother was affected. His distraught father blamed the tragedy on his support for the Marcos government's family planning policy.

De los Reyes said his father grew more disillusioned with the Marcos regime when he was target of Marcos' influential minister Francisco "Kit" Tatad.

After the 1986 Edsa Revolution that toppled Marcos, Antonio became the president of the National Council of the Laity of the Philippines, an arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Philippines, and went on to organize charismatic groups.

Playing cupid

Antonio, who died in May 2004, was also roped by Jaime, during De los Reyes to his house with Dorin, who was then 19 years old. The daughter of a Brazilian mother and Filipino father, Dorin met Jaime in the production of a musical play produced by Fr. James Reuter SJ.

Antonio was the lead male character while Dorin was the understudy to the female protagonist. Dorin said she kept her distance from Antonio, because she always noticed him to meet his son.

After the play's run, Antonio and Father Reuter arranged a party for the cast, and Antonio brought his son. After 27 years old. The initial meetings between and the couple married in 1990.

Supernatural inspiration

De los Reyes acknowledged that Kapatiran's ideas alone cannot win the elections, but he insists that the party is fighting in the correct battlefield.

"I have to recognize the reality that the battle is difficult, especially in a country dominated and hypnotized by traditional politics that are motivated by cash bulls. There are mistakes. What we cannot do, God will do for us. There is no extraordinary, supernatural inspiration in it of the Holy Spirit without which we don't have anything at all," he said.

He compared the country's situation to a computer that has bogged down due to viruses, adding, "We have to reformat your hard drive and start everything so that things can work well again."

The complaints resolved to win. But if I don't win, we're still victorious because we have planted the seeds that will continue to grow and that will be others who will reap the harvest. What's important is Kapatiran did not and will not take undue advantage of affairs and closed by its allies, so it's okay if we lose," he added.

Campaign ends today

By Kristine L. Alave

CANDIDATES WILL HAVE THEIR FINAL chance to say their piece today.

The Commission on Elections is reminding politicians that election period ends on Monday that today is the last day of the 90-day campaign period.

"May it will be the end of the campaign period. That's the day when we will see the most number of things: the most number of rallies, flyers, posters and banners going up and I think it's going to be a very messy day," said Comelec spokesperson Jesse Sinenio.

Section 5 of the Omnibus Election Code prohibits candidates from campaigning on the eve of the elections and on Election Day itself.

"I think it's going to be our most busy day we have to student three things," Sinenio said.

Aside from campaigning, politicians are also banned from offering free transportation, food and drinks, and things of value to the public as this would constitute vote buying.

Violation of the election law provision is considered an election offense and carries a penalty of one to six years' imprisonment plus the removal of right to vote and to be elected to public office.

Meanwhile, the Comelec is also reminding the public that the ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol starts on Sunday, this day before the elections.

Only hotels and restaurants certified by the Department of Tourism will be allowed to sell liquor.

Also prohibited on Election Day are the holding of fairs, cockfights, boxing, horse races, jai-alai and athletic sport.

The bans will be lifted only on the day of the elections.

Peñafrancia image to launch 3M Rosaries

THE VENERABLE image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, "Ina" to the Catholic faithful of Bicol, will arrive at the Ninoy Aquino International airport terminal 3 this morning from Naga City on a mission to launch a unique devotion for every 100 years of devotion to the Blessed Mother.

The 3 Million Rosaries Project is being launched to commemorate 300 years of Fatima that Our Lady under the special title of Peña de Francia has bestowed on her devotees since she was bequeathed to the faithful in Bicol in the year 1710.

Escorted by Bishop Bernardino Almendras together with Peñafrancia Archdiocese Brotherhood and Lived Governor, the mother's iconic of Ina Peñafrancia will be brought by motorcade to Glorietta 5 in Makati for the two-day Mother's Day weekend celebration.

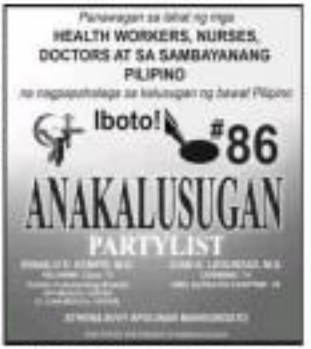
At the Glorietta 5 activity center, Bishop Almendras will concelebrate at a Holy Mass at 12 noon. "Marshalling" (Pasalig) rites will follow after the Mass. Here, devotees will line up to be crossed by Ina's holy mantle as they pray for a specific favor as a sound proof to our nation's history.

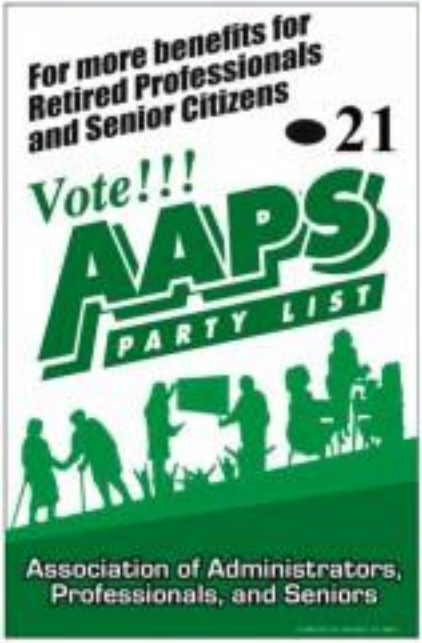
Various activities are lined up for the two-day weekend festivities to ensure seriousness and total prayerful devotion to the rosary.

The recently launched souvenir stamp book "Ina: Little Heroine of Faith" will be made available for honoring Peñafrancia themed paintings by the famous artist Pancho Fisher will be on exhibit. The artist will also do on-the-spot portraitures upon request by the viewing public these portraitures will be made.

Limited special edition "Ina" stamps will be made available and collectible. "Bahag Inina" paintings and specially designed bahag head bands.

Proceeds from these items will go to Project 3 Million Rosaries to be distributed to the youth—school children and young adults—in parishes and Inc-Pang mass intentions nationwide.





Smartmatic call center in place

By Kristine L. Alave

TECHNICIANS ARE ALREADY in place in the field and in Smartmatic-TIM Corp.'s National Support Center (NSC) to respond to any technical problems that may arise on May 13, according to Smartmatic-TIM officials.

The NSC is a call center that Smartmatic-TIM, the technology partner of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), has set up in the Astrid Global building in Ortigas to monitor all election activities and respond to technical requirements in the field before, during and after May 13.

Jurhiendee Machado, who heads the NSC operations, said the call center was established three months ago. It started to monitor the dispatch of election materials three weeks ago.

The call center became fully operational a week ago to handle the testing and sealing of the voting machines. It will be in operation until May 17, Machado said.

Because the May 20 elections will be using computerized balloting and counting for the first time, the Comelec has required that its technology provider have technical personnel to assist election officers on the ground.

Hotline

When a problem crops up in the field, the technicians will call the hotline and inform the problem to the corresponding agent, said Smartmatic-Asia president and spokesperson Cesar Flores.

There will be agents assigned to handle queries from the printer room operators (PCOS) machine technicians and customer support representatives.

The agents will also make follow-up calls to technicians for periodic check-ups.

Agents have also been assigned to handle reports from the forwarders and the telecommunication companies, Flores said.

There are about 700 call center agents assigned to the NSC, the company said.

Aside from the call center agents, Smartmatic-TIM said they have hired 31,799 PCOS machine technicians, 6,540 PCOS supervisors and 2,337 outstanding technicians.

The technicians have been assigned to the field. They will be called to respond to various situations, ranging from weather disturbances, power interruptions, malicious and telecommunication breakdowns, and system interruptions.

There will be at least nine PCOS technicians per polling center, reporting to a PCOS supervisor, Flores said. The supervisor will have jurisdiction over several clustered precincts.

The PCOS technicians will visualize PCOS activities before, during and after the voting.

Command center

The supervisors will periodically send reports to the Comelec-Smartmatic command center about the field situation and the contingencies that may arise.

There will also be technicians posted at the barangay national canvassing centers to aid the canvassers in consolidating the count.

The technicians will work closely with the Board of Election Inspectors, Department of Education supervisors and Board of Canvassers.

Under the rules, the technicians, who are hired by Smartmatic-TIM, are only supposed to assist the voters if they are called by the BEI, or the BoC or Comelec official.

Ang pagMAMAhal mo sa iyong alaga, pakita mo gamit ang MAMA PRO AT MAMMAVET

Kailangan ng isang inahing baboy ng kakaibang alaga. Kapag maganda ang iyong pagsilang, susukliat ka niya ng mas marami at malusog na mga biik. Mas marami kang maibebenta na mga biik , mas lalaki ang iyong kita!

Tandaan, bigyan ang iyong inahing baboy ng tamang nutrisyon at mga gamot na papaldasin ang kanyang resistensiya laban sa sakit.

Una sa lahat, bigyan mo ang iyong inahing baboy ng Mama Pro Developer para mas maganda ang kanyang pagkakatirik! Iti-'y buong sa Fertility Enhancers, para unahin ang "dry" period ng inahing baboy, nang sa gayon, makapanganak siya ng dalawang beses sa isang taon. Sigurahong High Density Nutrient Diet ang makukuha ng iyong alaga—mayaman sa vitamins, minerals at iba pang mga nutrients na kailangan nya habang siya ay buntis, upang siya ay magkaroon ng malusog na biik.

Alagaan din ang nagbebenacrified na inahin. Para naman lumakas ang gatas niya, siguradohin na siya ay naka- Mama Pro Milkmaker. Tatlong araw bago manganak, umpisahan na ang paglibigay, dahil nakakatulong din ang Mama Pro Milkmaker sa maiwasan ang mga stillbirths, pre-weaning abnormalities at respiratory problems. Nakakalusaw pa ng masarang anoy sa dami ng baboy.

Higit sa lahat, wag kalimutan, bigyan siya ng Mammavet tuliong araw samot samot pagkatapos niyang manganak.

Ang Mammavet ang kanyang depensa laban sa impeksyon tulad ng Mastitis, Metritis at Agalactia, na kadalasang sakit ng mga kalapanganak lamang na inahin. Dahil kapag nagamasan ang alaga mo ng MMA, hihinto ang gatas niya at mahahamot ang kanyang mga biik.

Kapag siya'y inalagaan, siyak ang kapalit ay mas marami na kabuhayan!

CAMPAIGNING ONLINE

Candidates on the web: They're just a click away

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Mikhail Reyes Flores

KNOWING WHERE YOUR FRIEND candidate are campaigning, buying shoes and cups with his image, or importing election materials regularities—these are all just a click away.

To be in constant touch with voters and keep them updated on their activities—the 2010 presidential candidates have set up campaign websites to complement more traditional campaign strategies.

Followers of Nicanor Perlas can check his daily schedule of activities perhaps even those of Noli de Villanueva and his chairs to help him finish at his table-by, while Sen. Benigno Aquino III's followers can report black propaganda or vote-buying by filling out an electronic form at noynoy.ph.

"The website is a big help in our campaign because we cannot reach some areas because of our limited budget. So we are using our website to spread our advocacy," said Kirk Douglas Dumlao, a volunteer who maintains the official website of Jc de los Reyes' Ang Kapatiran Party (AKP).

De los Reyes is the only presidential candidate without his own campaign website. The AKP has set up a single website for all its candidates, the angkapatiran.ph point.

Catchy names

The other candidates paid for catchy website names that are short and easy to remember nicknames. Thus, Joseph Estrada's erap.ph, Gilbert Teodoro's gilbo.ph, Sen. Manuel Villar's manuelvillar.com.ph, Sen. Richard Gordon's dickgordon.ph lovers and Sen. Jamby Madrigal's jambymadrigal.com.

Though Internet use in political campaigns here is not yet an instrumental factor in the field, it has gone a long way since the last national elections in 2004.

According to some studies, candidates in 2004 uploaded only the most basic information from their campaign leaflet, missing out on the interactivity and other potentials offered by the Internet.

The campaign websites of the 2010 presidential campaign show that many of the candidates have tried this year to maximize online campaigning.

Fund-raising

Bribe' website, set up weeks before he announced his bid last July, managed to raise $130,000 from supporters abroad, according to his campaign manager Tommy Dioquio.

Estrada's website generated some $5,000,000 in online donations, while the MCP raised some $549,000 online.

Tommy Semiano, who heads Aquino's new media bureau, said the amount raised through the website probably hovered at P2 million.

Aquino's website not only accepts donations online, but supporters can also rent to a hotline to automatically donate P25 per text message.

According to Semiano, online donations form only a small part of campaign contributions as online payment is not yet a common practice in the country.

Campaign websites are also able to carry information that cannot be shown in regular television commercials or carried in costly newspaper ads.

According to Sec Garcia, a media volunteer for Villanueva, the candidate's official website has been very effective, "able to maximize its potentials for communication and cost-effective ways to avoid traditional is our local finances reconsiderations."

Links

Villar has devoted a link just to counter allegations against him. Aquino's site has a similar link where he addressed the false psychiatric reports against him.

Estrada's site contains a link to his party's sample ballot, the only one of the candidates to have it.

The websites are also filled with multi-media materials to make sure visitors are not bored. Teodoro's website endlessly blares with a rock song—his campaign jingle sung by the band Rivermaya. His website also screens with 2M videos of his campaign activities.

Hat Estrada surrounds him and all other candidates in the number of photos uploaded with more than 1,000 pictures.

Villar is the most active in uploading press releases—with more than 100 separate releases in the three-month campaign.

The websites also have links to social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

(This article is based on a research paper by the authors accepted for presentation at the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) Conference in Singapore next month.)

Now, Lucy faces disqualification

By Lola B. Salaverria

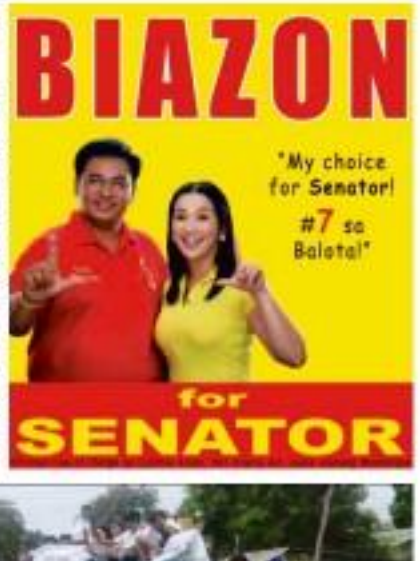
DAVAO CITY (MER BOSWAVEFLEA.COM) – Ella descended to battling out Richard Gomez from the congressional race in Ormoc, but he is not stopping there.

Antolin is now going after Gomez's candidate, his wife Lucy Torres-Gomez, a TV host.

Antolin yesterday asked the Commission on Elections to disqualify Torres, saying she could not substitute for her husband because he could not be considered a candidate in the first place.

The poll body earlier disqualified Gomez and cancelled his certificate of candidacy (COC) on the ground that he was not a resident of Ormoc's first district.

Antolin said those whose COCs have been cancelled would not be considered candidates at all, and are treated as if they never filed their CoCs.



Investors bullish on post-election RP economy

By Michelle V. Ramos

BUSINESS SEE THE OUTlook for the economy after the elections as positive as the presidential candidates considered by the business sector as capable of steering the country forward are leading in the surveys, according to a report by the Standard Chartered Bank.

Standard Chartered said the platforms of Sen. Benigno Aquino III and Sen. Manuel Villar, who were leading in the pre-election surveys at the time of the study were encouraging for businessmen who see brighter prospects for the economy once a new administration takes over.

The two candidates are getting increased in the comfort that the business climate in the country will improve should any of them win the presidential race, the bank said.

Pro-business

The "pro-business" platforms of Aquino and Villar provide "credible approaches to tackling structural impediments to economic development," Standard Chartered said.

Three of the key platforms of the two candidates' businesses are on fiscal consolidation, infrastructure development and improvement of the business environment.

These platforms address the major concerns of investors about the Philippines, the bank said.

"Overall, we see both frontrunners addressing issues that have impeded foreign investment in the past. Appropriate policies and structures could attract the necessary capital to drive the country's infrastructure gap, allowing the Philippines to benefit from increasing regional integration," it said.

Standard Chartered expects the gross domestic product to grow by 3.5 percent this year, faster than the 0.9 percent registered in 2009. The growth forecast is within the government's own range of between 2.6 and 3.6 percent.

Major growth driver

The bank said a major growth driver for the Philippines this year is still remittances from overseas Filipino workers. Remittances had household consumption, which provides a large boost to the economy.

Standard Chartered said the widening lead of Aquino over Villar in the recent surveys was also encouraging to most business industry players.

It said that a president-elect winning by a large margin would reduce the chances of protests and add to the credibility of the election results.

Despite concerns over the reliability of the automated election system being used in the country for the first time, Standard Chartered expressed confidence that the elections on Monday will not encounter problems significant enough to threaten the economy.

"Our base case is that the elections will run smoothly," it said.

Nonetheless, it said the possibility of violence could not be totally ruled out.

The bank said the peso may continue to be volatile until the final results of the presidential election are known.

After breaking into the 44-to-the-dollar territory in April, the peso reverted to the 45-level before election related concerns.

"Base case, [the peso-dollar rate] is likely to be choppy and trendless in seasonal factors, positioning and bugle risk appetite," said Standard Chartered.

Most forecasts, however, see the peso stabilizing once the elections risks are to be entirely and credible.

Earth Day Celebration

Mindoreños join hands to fight poverty

SAN JOSE, Occidental Mindoro – Over 5,000 Mindoreños from all walks of life in both provinces of the island celebrated Earth Day with the formation of a non-political alliance or federation of various People's Organizations that seek to protect and develop the island's natural resources, for the benefit of Mindoro's marginalized sector.

Known as ALAS-KA or the Alliance Lasa sa Kaunlaran at Kalikasan Laban sa Kahirapan (Alliance for Development and Environment Alliance Against Poverty), the multi-sectoral alliance believes that the island's bountiful natural resources developed to uplift Mindoreños from the "shackles of poverty".

Oriental Chairman Ingjerd Rapiff

The Occidental chapter of the alliance was launched on April 28 in the municipality of Sablayan while the Oriental chapter was launched the following day in the municipality of Pola Bola.

The anti-poverty alliance is composed of various People's Organizations representing a broad cross-section of Mindoro society - farmers, fisherfolks, cooperatives, indigenous peoples (Mangyans), women's associations, youth organizations, senior citizens and health workers, among others.

In the wake of record flooding that Mindoro in two provinces are among the country's poorest, the unprecedented formation of the anti-poverty alliance is a jarring wake-up call for the island's leaders as the country heads into national elections next week.

Self-determination was the recurring theme that resounded in the launch of the Alliance in both Oriental and Occidental Mindoro.

The successful launch of ALAS-KA was marred by the last-minute cancellation of a permit that was issued for the use of the Sablayan Convention Center. Some 2,000 alliance members in Occidental Mindoro were simultaneously to the Convention Center. Even members of the Army brass band – which was to have provided the entertainment – had to leave the premises.

However this did not deter the ALAS-KA Alliance members of Occidental Mindoro as they led by chairman Danilo Martinez regrouped at a nearby beach resort, creating a traffic jam never before seen in Sablayan.

Leaders of ALAS-KA declared that the Alliance will work for projects and issues to uplift the generally poor living conditions of Mindoreños and to serve as a watchdog in the protection of the island's environment and natural resources.

Occidental Chairman Danilo Martinez

According to ALAS-KA, the Alliance will seek for ways and means to provide a decent life for Mindoreños who are currently living below the poverty line.

Self-determination was the recurring theme that resounded in the launch of the Alliance in both Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, to more specific terms, ALAS-KA's leadership is currently consulting with its constituents, as well as government agencies, the business sector and political leaders on immediate and impactful ideas towards finding solutions to their problems.

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OPINION

Days of unease

COMELEC CHAIR JOSE MELO SAYS HE CAN SMILE again. "Elections will go through as all levels, in all provinces," he happily declared Wednesday after a test run on a perfect count optical scan (PCOS) machine in one Makati precinct yielded a "perfect" result. The same machine was one among scores of machines that failed to read votes cast for local positions in an earlier test conducted Monday, forcing the Comelec to call off the nationwide testing of some 76,800 PCOS machines and recall all the flash cards where the instructions are encoded. The accurate reading of the test votes came after a reconfigured flash card was used. And a visibly relieved Melo gratefully said, "It seems that our prayers have been answered."

EDITORIAL

Even the most pious Filipino voters, however, would wish the Comelec could rely on something more concrete to get the nation through the first automated elections, like machines that work without too many problems and a more trustworthy partner than Smartmatic. From the very start and almost every step of the way, the automation project has been hounded by hitches and glitches, and Monday's harrowing breakdown was just the latest and the worst of these. It would take a lot of faith and optimism to expect the Comelec and Smartmatic to pull off smooth, worry-free automated elections on Monday. The most that Filipino voters can wish and pray for is that they would be proven wrong and both the Comelec and its partner will be able to rise above their incompetence. But there is very little to hang such hopes on.

The Comelec said the reconfiguration of the flash cards was almost done as of yesterday and that their delivery to the different precincts would be completed today. But what guarantee do we have that these new flash cards will work this time? What new problems will crop up once the voting starts on Monday and then when the results are being transmitted to the municipal, provincial and national canvassing centers?

As early as Thursday, the Comelec already announced that there would be delays in the delivery of flash cards to some 5 percent of precincts nationwide. Voting in these precincts will proceed as scheduled, but the counting of votes will have to wait until the flash cards arrive. What might happen in between is anybody's guess. Many of these precincts are located in provinces where previous elections have been marred by cheating, like the Lanao provinces and Maguindanao.

Despite the confident pose they assume in public, Comelec officials themselves obviously are not too sure that the automated elections will proceed smoothly. They projected—and supposedly prepared—for a worst-case scenario where 30 percent of the PCOS machines would not be able to count the votes and transmit the tallies. And that was before Monday's massive malfunctions of the counting machines. Which leads us to ask, how did they arrive at that number? And after Monday's experience, why are they loath to make preparations for a higher rate of failure—or even a 100-percent manual count, just in case those reconfigured flash cards don't work again?

Even if just 10 percent of the machines don't work, there could be big trouble. While the Comelec says it has prepared for a 30-percent rate of failure, its preparations may not be adequate. Spokesman for the teachers who make up the board of election inspectors have said they are not ready to do a manual count of votes. They are intimidated by the mere prospect of having to tally so many as 1,000 votes. And some have said they wouldn't know how to go about it, since it was not part of the pre-election training they got.

An even bigger question in a hybrid election is how the Comelec would handle the results. If the results from the PCOS machines are tallied before the manual count is over, dagdag-bawas operations will have a field day. If the national tally is held off until the results of the manual count come in, who knows what will happen to the machine-generated results?

There are still too many issue reals to tie and too little time left. We don't know if anybody should be smiling in these days of unease.

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Risa's generation

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

RISA HONTIVEROS-BAROQUEL IS JUDGING her senators. The latest surveys show her to be hovering between 16th and 17th place—still outside the winning circle of 12, which includes the likes of Bongbong Marcos and Lito Lapid. But, clearly, she is very much within striking distance, almost by a miracle, having come from way behind—from the ranks of dozens of no-name candidates who languished at the bottom of survey rankings only because their names do not ring a bell.

Risa, who is 41 years old, belongs to that generation of Filipino leaders who, if they are not yet in command of the nation, should first be by let in the line of succession to the nation's leadership. Behind her pleasant demeanor and unpretentious ways is a solid record of involvement in social movements spanning more than two decades.

She was barely out of college when she became one of the founding members of the Coalition for Peace, where I first met her. She rose from the ranks to become the head of Peace Action, an organization of young social democrats, mostly from Ateneo, who championed the rights of peasants, workers, the urban poor, indigenous peoples and women. Her colleagues later joined forces with other progressive groups and, by a stroke of historical irony, the party-list organizations.

If she wins, it will be the first time a real social activist will become a member of the Senate: the nation's most important political forum. It will be a major watershed in our country's political life. It will inform into the Senate not only youth but a coherent political vision drawn from mass movement experience.

Historically, the builders of our country have been much younger. Rizal was only 27 when he led the reform movement of Filipinos in Spain; Bonifacio was only 29 when he founded the Katipunan, and Aguinaldo had just turned 30 when he was elected president of the new revolutionary government in 1897.

But, in the years following independence, our political system tended to push back the successor generation, delaying in every turn positions of leadership. Martial law eliminated one whole generation of young Filipino leaders by forcing them to go abroad or underground. Many were crushed physically or spiritually, or both. The traditional politicians, meanwhile, are living longer, growing more prosperous, and staying around longer.

In contrast, the world's pioneers have grown shorter, brutish-tired and disquieted, many of them no longer identify with the nation's aspirations. When they think of political leadership, they think of political predators who feed on the carcass of an impoverished and demoralized people. They have become cynical about politics and cannot see their personal growth as intertwined with that of the nation. It has been confined to the realm of armed struggle, unable to see any space for their ideals in the corrupted world of electoral politics.

But many from Risa's generation, grown equally weary of armed conflict, have decided not to completely yield the terrain of electoral politics to the old political class. They see the activists who refused to give up, but who have also become aware that sheer advocacy means little unless translated into collectively binding decisions backed up by political authority. Seeing upon the limited space provided by the 1987 provisions of the 1987 Constitution, they took up the challenge to join mainstream politics and proceeded to build a modern political party from the ground rather than simply absorb and convert existing mass organizations into an electoral machine. A handful of them have managed to break into the House of Representatives as party-list congressmen, but none ever rose to elected space is fast being taken over by traditional politicians.

Risa has been a two-term party-list representative herself. Her unsuccessful bid in the year's election is the logical culmination of a serious effort to re-configure Philippine politics by peaceful means. She wishes to be elected on the basis of her clear progressive position on controversial social issues, rather than with the aid of traditional practices that, in our system, never fail to drain the aspiring idealism of young politicians. But as a result position on the reproductive health bill from the perspective of women's rights is admirable not only for its courage, but also for its intellectual rigor and ethical consistency.

Perhaps only a thin consciousness can call off something like this in a traditional society as ours. She is firm but never arrogant. She argues from a normative position of social justice, but is never blindly ideological. She inserted a military officer into to articulate and intelligent, but also bounded in every area by strong wisdom with four children, she has been through all kinds of adversity. She is determined to win this country around, but she is not ambitious for herself. Lincoln once said: "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." I have every confidence that if the nation entrusts to be able to say later in a woman who will have no problem passing Lincoln's test.

This is a tribute long overdue. Young Filipinos like Risa must be recognized and only but they have given their best to our country, but for the philosophy of hope they continue to promote.

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The 'Noybi' ironies

GET REAL

Sol'ta Collas-Monsod

WITH A 22-POINT DIFFERENCE (9526 OR worse 2.1 between the two leading contenders, as revealed by a poll taken one week before election day (LEC and with no credible explanation revelations separating the public through nation two days before 10, the presidential race is, for all intents and purposes, over but the drawing drumming on 40 percent more because for 30 million registered voters going to the polls), what the survey shows is that if the voters turn out the same way as 10 as they would have the week before, Noynoy Aquino would rack up about 16.8 million (range being 16 million to 17.6 million), compared to 8 million votes (range being 7.2 million to 8.6 million votes) for Manny Villar. That would be a humongous lead anyway you look at it—and no longer vulnerable to Jinggoy-Jamby machinations, no matter how high-tech. Again it is no racist president.

The vice presidential race is another matter, and it is shaping up to be the most interesting of the contests for elective positions. Mar Roxas and Jojo Binay are now neck-and-neck, thanks to the plummeting of Loren Legarda's ratings, which drew her supporters deserting her in droves to the two neck-and-neck in the previous survey. The 11 points that she lost (and Binay gained) translate to a 4.4 million vote swing. While Roxas may have the edge—the latest survey was taken before the endorsement by the Iglesia ni Cristo of the Aquino-Roxas ticket—it is going to be a very close fight. And here is where Binay wishes are going to make a difference; and in this, from all reports, Binay may have the edge.

A large part of the Binay upward trend is attributable to the so-called "Noybi" constituency (Noynoy Binay) being pushed not only by Cha Fernandez, but by some members of Erin's online army. The name of Boy Aquino has been bruited about—which means the Council on Philippine Affairs (COPA), a group including Peping Cojuangco and Boy Abaya-Villaroya, which ostensibly boasts of having helped depose President Estrada in 2001, with whom Binay is officially running.

There is also the party-list bandila, which has officially endorsed Noybi, and is publicly listed as the financier of the Noybi television commercials. Bandila is mentioned in Volume 3, Vol. 3, where he first announced the party's endorsement of Noynoy, talked about the latter's moral accountability, saying, "Now is the time, more than ever, to put people in power who will stop graft and corruption ... No corruption, no property allegedly connected with any accountability drive among public officials, following the dictum that a public office is a public trust." In the party's subsequent endorsement of Binay Tuyog didn't seem to have much to say anymore about stopping graft and corruption.

Tuyog's sudden infatuation or corruption in connection with Binay, we have to give him credit for, he was after all, lead convener of a movement called Pilipinas Muna, and head of the Chief Justice Puno for President Movement. Noybi, in fact, is, anymore, Noynoy Aquino's most serious opponent in the run-up to the presidency, and another reason why he is so interested in corruption, and another reason why he whose more than 10 years as mayor of Makati saw his former mentor astronomical by—as reported by Senator Joel Villanueva, for if "Noynoy himself is relieved, the TV ad, which Bandila supposedly paid for, to see—becomes the message is that Noybi will defeat corruption and improve the lot of the poor.

As if that were not enough, there is another ad, supposedly paid for by INP-Lakas, which again takes Abraham with the truth. It claims on the one hand, a picture of Binay with President Cory, and on the other hand, Binay digging up a Presidential Kampi is signing a bill, the picture labeled "Kalampi sa EDSA." That is a lie since he, along the entire time as "Pilot's "too poor" ads that backfired. Binay (in the blurred background would there) was applauding the signing of the Cha-cha Resolution. And if Binay did indeed vote for the EVAT bill, then I rather him as a responsible legislator whose actions helped avert a fiscal crisis in the country.

Let's face it, the vice presidential elections are not just interesting, but their results are likely to have significant effects or bullets of the drive for good governance and against corruption.

And while we are talking about elections, the latest survey results show that of the 12 senatorial candidates in the magic circle, 10 are either entrenched politicians or reprobates. Many of those 10 don't deserve to be there. (Johnny Ponce Enrile is an outstanding exception.) On the other hand, I have listened to around 40 of the senatorial wannabes in connection with the "Debate" of GMA 7, and the following personalities impressed me with their quality of mind, record and their homework: Samira Gutoc, Teena Pilapil, Risa Hontiveros, Sonia Roco, Israel Veginez, Steve Acosta, Wacoy Villaflores, Rudy Simon, Atty. Lacson. It is said that the fill-up rate for senatorial slots is only 50 percent. I urge voters to try to make that 100 percent, and consider the above senatorial candidates.

And now for the party list. I haven't had the time to look at all the representatives who are listed by those 187 parties—but certainly the voters would not go wrong by casting for the Bayan (Ocho Ang ay/or Kaakbay Ilding Bilanes) or Akbay "Child" Ang. I mention the latter because its detractors claim it is an ad. conservative puppet. It is not.

'Science means never having to say you're wrong'

"SCIENCE MEANS NEVER HAVING TO SAY YOU'RE SORRY" is a catchy saying. There must be so many deluded men of letter in there ever known.

On the other hand, "Science means never having to say you're wrong," which seems to be what it means to presidential candidate Richard "Dick" Gordon, is not only what scientist means to me, too, I think, to most scientists.

1. The first of the six claims in Gordon's letter to the Inquirer last May 4 is that my use of the phrase "survey science" is deceptive, simply because to compile a credible "from the population-based survey. Then, the finding from a single sample cannot always match the finding from the population, and therefore it will be wrong at times. But, if survey samples have not to be correct as frequently as predicted by statistical theories, that's not because the theories are flawed.

2. Gordon claims I misrepresent the Pair Election Act law by not mentioning its information requirements. He finds a fact the information requirements in its law. S.2 refer only to election surveys that are published in the mass media. All the published SWS surveys identify their sponsors.

The Act's law. S.3 requires operators to register, and also restrict that "if reasonably be sufficient to cover the costs of acquisition, copying and publication" may be charged. Ever since the time the law was passed in 2001, no one has applied in SWS to buy an inspection copy, therefore fees are unknown, accompanied by a deposit as bona fide, since customs producing a public-use dataset is costly speculated work.

3. Gordon claims that the act of assigning a "quota" of respondents to represent a region means doing "quota sampling," instead of probability sampling. However, in this context the word "quota" refers to stratification, not to sampling. When a survey uses stratified sampling, it is going to a city or use that results in quota-based sampling use. Within each region, SWS sampling is done according to probability.

[Quota sampling means selecting respondents to fill up regions' quotas. For example, interviewers might be told to find 500 male respondents and 500 female subjects, and female classes, 18-24 years old, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, and 55+. Till-held, 100, half 25 elementary school leavers, 25 high school leavers, 25 college leavers, and 25 college graduates, and so on. It doesn't matter when respondents are chosen, as long as the quotas are filled.]

Gordon puts probability (SWS' methodology, mostly from Gallup because, according to him, Gallup tolerates doubly) work by its field providers outside the United States. I say good that to Gallup.

4. Gordon claims it is impossible for SWS to do three national surveys in one month, and do much that it be suspected by Gordon's. I say, look up your fact with real money, not advice.

5. Gordon laughs at the "bonuses" of 10% survey owners because he can cite two failures. He does not count the successful surveys. "Bonuses" means survey having to say you're wrong."

Six unpublished cases, reputable consultants recently secure. "While some presidentiables are loath to go to surveys, with our own going to the length of using political publicists, those does seem to be something to their troubles. Pre-Indies unofficial presidential election post-theories and found it quite compelling to see how those candidates who and those polls seemed worlds before the election. Only always won the race." (Source: "Hope to Win?" by Ramon J. Hernando and Marjorie D. Hernandez, Global Science Publishers, April 27, 2010.)

On vice-presidential races, my 2004 paper, "The challenges of election surveys: SWS experience in the Philippines," shows that the winners, margins up, and succeeding ranks in 1992, 1998 and 2004 were all in line with the SWS surveys in early May of that year.

In the 2001 senatorial race, the final SWS prediction survey identified 16 out of 12 winners, and had a 98.3 percent correlation of survey ranks with the election results. In the senatorial in 2004, it identified 12 out of 12 winners, and had a 99.1 percent rank correlation across all candidates. In 2007 (the Villanueva case), it identified 13 out of 12 winners, and had a 97.2 percent rank correlation across all candidates.

The 84% net pole of 1998 and 2004 correctly called the ranks of all the presidential and vice-presidential candidates at the national level. The disappearance in 2004 were in three regions, namely Metro Manila, Region 12 and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, out of 16 regions nationwide. In the current case of ARMM, where the net poll different from Gordon's and that Arroyo won, but placed with Honrado's call that 1PD won. I placed the term "discrepancy" in "error."

6. Gordon accuses me of "deceptively" about membership in a professional association, since, says he, "SWS is not a member of the Marketing Society in his original and Opinion Research Society of the Philippines (ORSEP), and hence cannot be subject of complaint to the society for violation of its code of professional ethics and conduct."

For Gordon's information, I was the president of MORES in 1992. Earlier, I was the first of the MORES ethics committee. Since Gordon doesn't notice what the "P" in MORES stands for, I guess his oversight is already hiding him.

Mea culpa for the inconvenience, since he seems to have forgotten that in 1998-1998 the Indira Ray Metropolitan Authority, under his management, subsidized to, and commissioned from Ifen, the Social Weather Surveys. The SWS reports to MMDA were open to the public at the SWS Survey Data Library.

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Agham

COMMENTARY

Juan Miguel Luz

WORMS TO THE FILIPINO WORD FOR SCIENCE.

Next to poor reading skills, low levels of science and math achievement that's country's most. Probably because it's the combination of the two that leads to people literacy and numeracy (the ability to do the four operations of arithmetic: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division).

At a higher level, it is the reason why we are unable to make the leap to shift to agricultural-industrial base in this country. There are simply not enough science and technology enthusiasts, professionals and scientists to use a broad-based manufacturing or industrial sector that can produce products for local consumption and export.

But this was not always the case. Almost a half-century ago (1961), the Philippines was second only to Japan in economic development in Asia. Japan's development was largely fueled by science and technology policies established up to 70 percent to its economic development. By contrast, the contribution of S&T to the Philippines is estimated to be at only about 40 percent.

Among the reasons are:

- Inadequate funds for S&T and Research & Development (R&D). According to studies, the UN advises that at least 1.0 percent of GNP is allocated for this. The Philippine allocates less than 0.35 percent of GNP for S&T and R&D.
- Low number of R&D workers and engineers. (Few college students pursue engineering and science courses because of poor high school training.)
- Low commitment of our leaders of the value of S&T to economic development.
- The problem is both structural and political. On the one hand, the education system has underdeveloped in producing elementary and high school graduates with basic and intermediate levels of math and science that we don't make an S&T count possible. Less than 13 percent of university graduates are in science or technology. On the ground, by too few to develop an industrial economy. The base for building an S&T culture is not to begin in early in Grade 1 when young children are naturally curious and inquisitive, ask "why" questions and in basic to observe phenomena and record these observations in some manner that questions new learning.

But to it is also political because S&T must be supported by programs of government if it is to have basic science and technology must be seen as a public good.

In 2005, members of the S&T situation in the country, an association of science professionals, science journalists, advocates and supporters organized the Agham Movement (AM) to S&T as tool for economic development, to advance science and math education in the country, and to help develop a culture of science among Filipinos. In 2007, Agham ran for a seat in Congress only to lose out by less than 12,000 votes. Although they were not elected, Agham's campaign platforms were than any congressman in any congressional district. In May 2010, Agham has proposed a second run for Congress. Its legislative agenda is to enact and double:

a) Hold by 5% the allocation of state resources to the national budget for S&T/R&D;

b) Work to improve science education at the elementary and high school levels;

c) Train more science and math teachers;

d) Expand the number of scholarships for science and engineering at the university and graduate school levels;

e) Establish more Philippine Science High Schools in all the regions (presently there are five regions without a "Pisay");

f) Push for the passage of the Sustainable Science Communication Act; and

g) Establish a College of Meteorology at the University of the Philippines.

h) Establish a College of Marine Science at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT);

i) Establish the Philippine Bamboo and Rattan authority to improve the livelihood of upland farmers and the competitiveness of the Philippine bamboo and handicraft industries;

j) Institutionalize Tribal Health Workers as a way to improve health services in far-flung areas of the country;

k) Support the establishment of Centers of Research and Development Excellence (CORE) in the country; and

l) Educate foreigners on climate change, including the Kyoto protocol.

In its alliance with scientists, Agham has added another outdoor and quality issues to its legislative agenda. (The single largest problem in terms of basic but welfare has become the ever-old and ever-increasing number of traffic jams, the power to meet service issue mass system, especially that of subways and premieres.)

We need science and math to survive in our world. English, Filipino and reading if are are to build a strong and resilient economy. Politics is, politics, in order for science and math to flourish, we need to ground, and development. For workers and others, a vote for Agham will also be a vote for quality education.

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The nominees of Agham are Angelo Palmones, science journalist and info-graphic host at @ABS-CBN, Anna Antonio, Atty. Jose Maria Ponce, Dr. Ephraim Babiano, medical doctor, and Dr. Cheribeth Ebuenhilan, president of the League of Midwives.

Juan Miguel Luz, is executive director of the Center for Environmental Concerns and co-chair of the Agham Movement of the Philippines.

Why Mar Roxas

BUSINESS MATTERS

Ramon R. del Rosario Jr. and Alberto A. Lim

Aquino's assistance for president possible. Since then, Roxas has been a steadfast, loyal, solid builder of the rock upon which Aquino now stands. Together they are reaching out to millions of Filipinos with the message of taking the straight road of "being nothing corrupt, nothing bottom."

But Roxas differs in Aquino administration more than just unfailing support. Roxas brings to the vice presidency many competencies that are valuable to national leadership at this level. His record of achievement in public service speaks for itself. The catalyst shepherding the passage of landmark legislation, evidence of his skill in compromise and consensus. He served with distinction at trade and industry secretary in two administrations. In that position, he was responsible for building the Business Process Outsourcing industry. Finally, Roxas has also handled some of the most demanding public positions of his personal life, and coming, which has helped him decide of possible conflict of interest, corruption and personal bad habits.

Among many political leaders we know, Roxas is one of those who understands that public trust cannot be obtained just by asking for it or by expecting it to be given as of right. He knows that the public will give its trust to someone who just says "Trust me." Roxas knows that public trust comes from a continuous willingness to be transparent, to disclose fully and to confront issues head on. He knows that transparency is not limited to legislation alone; many times and many and operate in many opportunities for corruption that could influence in course. His being vice president can help make government more effective while being transparent and accountable.

We have tapped heavily and were expressed anger over the national opportunities and outright abuses in our national government in the past 12 years of the Estrada and Arroyo presidencies. We have learned painfully on the culpability and responsibility of the president because of the principle of command responsibility. The coming election is a chance to end a reason of our despair and anger by electing a national leadership capable of getting our people to live from the wasteland of bad governance. We hope that time we should think of the president and vice president as a real partnership leading our country toward new directions, but is prohibited. 12 years—only a chance to think about political dynasties and to discuss issues of relevance through television every three years.

With Aquino and Roxas at the head of government, we can realize the goal of reducing poverty to tenable-size levels within our generation, the goal of Philippine economic recovery. The objective of doubling our per capita income in 12 years has become real to us.

We are voting for Aquino and Roxas in the particular we would like to see moving our country's government money from the shoulder of overworked and underpaid personnel, wasted of the billions of pesos, public money and accountability. We are convinced that Aquino and Roxas, together and individually, will promote the skills, virtues, competence and sensibilities that can steadily but surely regain for the Philippines that friends and respect it deserved. The Aquino-Roxas ticket offers us once more our best chance to build our capacity to compete and succeed.

But we must all be intensely vigilant on May 10 as we face many risks in this automated election. Our ballots and votes should will pay huge dividends for the country.

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Comments: mail@ramonjosedelrosario.com.ph.

Tired

I'M TIRED OF THE GOVERNMENT. I'M TIRED OF THIS country. Every time I come home from work, I turn on the TV and I get disappointed because almost 99 percent of what I hear is terrible news.

I can't blame news like them to one's garbage; definitely no pending, yet unfortunately real. Election-related crimes happen every day, which makes me really wonder how real Philippine democracy is.

I can't even stand to watch the news because of it. I am so tired of listening to bad news!

You can't blame me for hating this crap. I've been a young activist since college, volunteering for different causes, organizing movements, going

YOUNG BLOOD

Chevenne Olarte

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the (word processed) and below—Ed.

to jail, marching in the streets with farmers, and rallying along Espinosa Avenue, among other things. While doing all these, I was hoping that one day change would come to this country. Heck, I truly hoped that President Macapagal-Arroyo would be locked on after that "Hello, Garci" scandal.

But what happened after all those efforts? Still is still here, alive and kicking.

What happened to me? I got tired. You can say I got tired hoping that the coming election will really change society. But a new government will really put us out to grab and can explain.

Personally, I didn't completely lose hope. Although I am not an active as my other friends in election volunteering efforts, I can say I'm still doing what I can for this country. I'm trying to help some farmers in Bukidnon put up their own business and being their product to more markets. Even if I try to join several campaign efforts, I just can't seem to be in all of them. I don't work for a non-profit foundation that documents brutal acts harder to public elementary schools.

I have registered to vote this coming May, but almost every week I doubt that my vote will really be meaningful. Should my presidential and vice-presidential choices win, would I feel distinct if the Senate and the House of Representatives are composed of selfish people who don't really represent the sentiments of the people they are supposed to represent? Would I feel satisfied enough in change if the local government are managed by officials who are too corporation-minding to care because their people are too scared to speak up?

I am 23, and I wonder if in the years to come, things would only be worse or things would be miraculously better. I am and I really doubt. I would rather travel to our country's beautiful places and climb mountains, swim seas, discover reefs, drink fresh coffee and meet nice and warm people than think of our country's problems.

But each time I taste my Philippine coffee which I bought from a trade fair shop, when I think of the beautiful sunsets, the beaches I have been to and the colorful magical reefs I have seen, when I dream of the mountains I have climbed, and when I relish the next greetings and warm treatment of all Filipinos I have met, I think, "Someone exactly like me may why I cannot lose hope for this country?"

I don't to wonder what would happen if people would vote because they are already jaded. What will happen to our next generation and to our people?

I do not want to imagine the worst. I am tired of imagining the worst. I am tired of not seeing the positive in this world than thinking of the gloom ahead. Another reason why I will vote is my vote and hope that a Supreme Being will ensure that the May 2010 elections will uphold the truth.

I still vote because I'm tired of corruption. I will vote because I am tired of other people from other countries enjoying our resources more than our own people can. I still vote because I still hope that someday, I will only get tired of having to remember too many good memories that this country and its people will give me.

Cheven Olarte, 23, is a graduate of the Notre de Manila University. Global Development Studies and currently works for AIDS Foundation, while trying to establish a social enterprise called Bamboo Agroindustries, which aims to help bamboo farmers by selling raw sugar.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

Send your contribution by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS

Comelec Chair Jose Melo

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LETTERS

Let's reboot the 'Philippine computer'

IT'S TIME TO UPGRADE THE FILIPINO COMPUTER (the nation) with newly software (executive, congressman, Supreme Court justice) and secretary) and boot firmware or antivirus

[illegible] background. If we can't so much about having an efficient computer at home, then we must also demand a better government—it's fine, we don't have to pay cable our taxes.

Earlier, I urged Filipino voters to consider the Philippines' new state leader when voting. This time, they should imagine the Philippines as a computer project manufactured in "Bob Labor Architecture of independence from the United States)—a computer assembly against other brands such as Korea, China, Japan, the United States, Germany, Italy, Indonesia, etc.

We all want an updated and technologically advanced computer. It's time for our "dream computer" to be more efficient, and we get the capacity for having just being the best. If we don't, we face the risk of being victimized for having an outdated model with limited capacity and, therefore, less competitive. Should give me a Filipino computer instead of an American or Japanese computer?

There is absolutely no reason for the Philippine computer to be less competitive. The new computer is strategically located in an economically dynamic region; (2) we have important natural resources; (3) we have many university, cable, power, and water; (4) we have around 90 million industrious and talented computer chips (our populations). (5) We had a head start in Spanish, English, Chinese and other languages; (6) we have access to resources technological and financial training.

Our human and technological [illegible] while should have made our country "the" human story in the Asia-Pacific region and the first category in Asia. Instead, we have built a "computer of mediocrity," graduating from "some good schools in the Philippines" whose capital "standard of [illegible]-ce, with can all over and ... no average student." But the best president of the Philippines can only be during a Bayanihan fight which everybody is tainted of home watching (tonight [illegible] thanks to Chip Tsao, Boyfriend Memorandum, Ormoc and Cebuano). Our name has tarnished. Our national computer has programmed bacterial worms and viruses that have infected and multiplied, that setting millions of our semiconductor chip people into a frozen, dependent, helpless and disorderly mode.

No, my fellow Filipinos, it does not have to be like this. We, the millions of marginalized and underprivileged, deserve a lot of [illegible]. We need a government capable of not only [illegible] but [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] and [illegible] to

INQUIRER Visayas

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Julie Jan Rondayed
News Chief Rhralyn L. Remedios

Mining not a top campaign issue in Samar

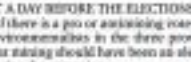
By Vicente Calixto, Tacloban City

WITH JUST A DAY BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, MANY ARE STILL not sure if there is a pro or antimining vote among Samarenos. While environmentalists in the three provinces on Samar Island had hoped that mining should have been an election issue, this did not figure much during the campaign.

Perhaps, this is because most of the leading candidates have all claimed to be "pro-environment" even as they steered away from making controversial positions about mining.

Samar, the country's third largest island, is rich in biodiversity and mineral resources and considered the last forest frontier in the Visayas.

The 13,080-square mile island, located about 600 kilometers south of Manila and composed of the provinces of Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar, is home to rare and endangered creatures like the Philippine eagle, hawk-eagle, cockatoo and tarsier, among others.



It is also endowed with rich mineral resources.

The provincial governments of Eastern Samar and Samar separately passed anti-mining ordinances in 2003. Northern Samar followed in 2007. All provinces imposed a mining moratorium of up to 10 years.

However, the three governors who approved the moratorium ordinances—Milagros Tan of Samar, Ben Evardone of Eastern Samar and Raul Daza of Northern Samar—are all leaving the capitol and are running for governor under the Liberal Party and is supported to continue Sec. Gabor's antimining stance. His main contender, Sharlita Abayon (Lakas-Kampi-CMD), also expressed similar sentiments even if he was not clear if he would support the ban.

Despite the moratorium, mining companies have already formed a beehive to extract Samar's rich mineral resources.

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Hometown mining

By Nestor Burgos Jr. and Felipe Cobos

CAPIZ
Capital: Roxas City
Towns, cities: 16 towns, 1 city
Population: 710,604 (2007)
Voting population: 429,806
Major industries: Fishing, agriculture, tourism

The Capiz provincial board in 1999 passed Ordinance No. 6, which imposed a 25-year moratorium on large-scale mining in the province. The ordinance, hailed by environmental advocates as a first in the country, was amended three years later, extending the mining moratorium from 25 to 50 years.

But environmental groups have raised concerns that mining operations are being undertaken in the province through mining exploration contracts and in the guise of small-scale mining. This has raised the question of whether the moratorium is still significant and has the support of province's officials.

Question:
Do you favor the lifting of the 50-year moratorium on mining operations in Capiz?

Candidates for governor:

• JOCELYN "BOGIE" BOLANTE (Lgcy-ne Riza Capiz): through former Capiz governor Jose "Ting" Bolilla, who acts as Bolante's spokesperson: "Not 'Not now' all but issues on environmental protection, stoppage of lethal chemicals (especially mercury) in the water supply and tributaries shall be addressed. The moratorium is necessary to protect downstream fish and paddy-producing areas and the livelihood of the residents in those areas. This includes both the small-scale and large-scale mining."

• VICTOR TAMO (Liberal Party): (Could not be contacted because he was busy with the campaign, according to party mates.) His running mate, vice gubernatorial candidate Esteban Evan Contreras (LP), said he was personally against the lifting of the moratorium as far as large-scale mining is concerned but he favored allowing small-scale mining to provide livelihood to farmers.

Candidates for representative of the first district:

• FELIPE BARREDO (UB, Capiz): "I'm not in favor of lifting the moratorium. We should respect the ordinance that was passed by the provincial board mandating the moratorium because it was meant to protect our environment."

• RODRIGUEZ DADIVAS (Independent): "I was among those who sponsored the ordinance that mandated the moratorium. I'm not in favor of its lifting because I oppose mining operations due have negative effects on our environment."

• ANTONIO DEL ROSARIO (LP): (Was in a meeting when reached by the reporter and did not reply to text messages.)

Candidates for representative of the second district:

• ROBERTO LAZTMORO (LP): "I am an environmentalist so I favor the moratorium. Globally sustainability of mining operations is still a big question mark. There are other lucrative ways in Capiz, like tourism, that are untapped but are yet readily viable. These include beaches in Sapian and Panay and the natural lake in Tapaz that can be world-class resorts upon sure fully developed. Of course, I will see to it that it will be a sustainable tourism industry."

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Taas-puang nagpapasalamat ang FFW sa suporta ng sumusunod na mga unyon, samahang manggagawa at maliwanag na kilusang pantyunan sa Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao! Magtulu-tuloy sana ang ating tagumpay sa halalan!
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17 Estrada
19 Guingona
6 Gello
14 Orlan
15 Defensor-Santiago
16 Cayetano
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Across the NATION

Planters control sugar workers' votes

Group says rice subsidy used in scare tactics

By Cielo P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—SUGAR PLANTATION WORKERS in Negros Occidental are being harassed into voting for the choice candidates of planters in yet another manifestation of how slave-like the workers' conditions are.

A labor leader in the province in Thursday said some planters are withholding the release of the workers' rice subsidies until they voted for the planters' selected candidates.

Allan Gomez, chair of the Democratic Association of Labor Organizations (Dalo), said at a press conference that some planters in Bago, Silay and Silay City, who are campaigning for mayoral candidate Gilbert Teodoro and gubernatorial candidate Rafael Coscolluela, were withholding the rice subsidies of their workers until after May 10.

> What they are doing is violating the democratic right of their workers to exercise their free will...

No work subsidy

The sugar planters give rice subsidy to workers to help feed them during days when there's no work in sugar farms. These subsidies would be lost if they declared from the workers' wages.

Gomez said sugar planters were withholding the rice subsidy release to ensure that their workers would vote for the planters' candidates.

Gomez appealed to planters to allow their workers to exercise their free will and vote for the candidates of their choice.

Eviction threats

"What they are doing is violating the democratic right of their workers to exercise their free will," he said.

Gomez recalled that sugar planters used to threaten their workers with eviction if they failed to vote for the landowner candidates.

In the last few days, some landowners threatened to withhold the rice subsidy inside the cane plantations of the elections were known, he said.

Gomez, however, refused to identify the planters fearing retaliation on the workers.

Reached for comment, Coscolluela said he has not heard of such a practice. "That is hard to believe," he said.

Not logical

Coscolluela said he did not see the logic in withholding the rice subsidies. "What is logical is that if you release the rice you will get the support of the voters and not the other way around," he said.

He said he would think, but that he believed it was just part of black propaganda.

Gov. Isidro Zayco, Lakas-Kampi-CMD chair in Negros Occidental, also said he was aware of the non-release of rice subsidies as a leverage for planters to recruit votes for their choice candidates.

"If ever that exists, it is a private decision of individuals. The Lakas-Kampi-CMD does not have anything to do with it," Zayco said.

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ELECTION WALL
The long stretch of Kidapawan City's main road is lined with all sorts of campaign materials. Posters, streamers and all sorts of campaign stuff fill the city's roadside, virtually creating a wall that is all but pleasing to the eye.

Tribal vote to be tested on Election Day

By Desiree Caluza and Maurice Malanes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—WITH ABOUT 14 MILLION of the country's population comprising of indigenous peoples (IP), would candidates representing them and their interests get into the political mainstream?

For Beverly Longid, a nominee of the party-list group Katribu, it is about time that minorities should be given a voice in the affairs of the government.

"An IP vote is a vote for ancestral land, self-determination, recognition of cultural integrity against discrimination and the upholdment of [the lives of] minorities," she said.

14 million people

Records from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) showed that the Philippines is home to at least 14 million indigenous peoples who come from 110 ethnolinguistic groups.

The NCIP has not determined the actual voting strength of this sector, but Longid said Katribu's studies showed that at least six million IPs are registered voters.

IPs are concentrated in the Cordillera, which is home to major Igorot tribes, and in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and parts of Mindanao that host groups of Lumad and Moros.

Longid said Katribu's campaign to get a seat in Congress brought them to remote villagers in the country hosting IP communities.

IP issues

Among the issues they would discuss in their visits were protection of ancestral lands, land reform, food security, indigenous resources and human rights.

Longid said if communities were also interested to have their partylist on large-scale projects like mining exploration and dams that would have an impact on their land and environment.

"If we get a third (two million) of the voting population of IPs, there are still likely get seats in Congress. The votes of advocates of IP rights would also be very significant," she said.

Activist

The May 10 elections will also be an acid test for the party-list group Bagis (Bago Historical Cultural Society of the Philippines), whose members either live in or trace their origins to communities in the borders of the Benet and Cordillera regions.

Bagis is seeking to represent the estimated two million indigenous Bago people, who have long inhabited the upper deltas of the Abra and Ambuclao Rivers.

The Bago were borne out of the intermarriages between Cordillera upland hill and Ilocos lowland villagers as a result of centuries of trade relations.

Distinguishing marks

In due time, they have evolved their own distinct culture and dialect, which, Bago leader Tito Bangayan said, distinguish them from other neighboring tribes and ethnic groups.

The Aquino administration has insisted of distributing patents to thousands of hectares of ancestral land, but many tribal communities continue to grapple with continuing attempts to explore their areas for minerals.

E. Samar solon sued for 'ghost' pork project

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

CALBAYOG CITY—BATTLE-SCARRED Samar Rep. Teodoro Casiño is facing a graft charge at the Office of the Ombudsman in Manila for misuse of his pork barrel funds.

But Casiño—tired politics at the moment for the filing of the complaint against him by several Eastern Samar town mayors.

Casiño and Gov. Ben Evardone are contesting the lone congressional district of Eastern Samar, which has been declared a "Kuta zone" since both candidates belong to the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

In their two-page complaint filed Friday last week, the complainants alleged that Casiño misused his P4.6-million priority development assistance fund (PDAF) to fund "ghost projects."

The complainants, Mayors Rolando Pandoloan of Arteche, Jojo Montealtana of Eqsquel, Javier Tacsore of Salcedo, Fidel Atacta of Borongan, Sedfrey Campo of Quinapondan, Neil Alvarez of Oras, Emiliana Uy, Lucelito of Dolores, Daniel Baldonas of Maydolong, James Ty of General MacArthur, Melchor Gaganter of Salcedo and Conrado Nicart of San Policarpo, claimed that Casiño used the Countryside Development Foundations (CDF), a nonexistent nongovernment organization, to "launder" the money.

"We are outraged by these discoveries and anomalies. We have information that almost all of respondent's (Casiño's) PDAF since he assumed office as our congressman has suffered the same or similar fates as mentioned in the face that we are a poor province and our constituents need these funds badly for their survival or decent living," the mayors said.

The mayors also included in their complaint Margie Liz who was said to be the president of the CDF, through which Casiño allegedly channeled his P4.6 million pork barrel funds.

The mayors claimed that they have checked the address of the foundation but it turned out to be "an old and battered wooden house" at 72 R Fernandez Street, 8F Homes Subdivision, Quezon City.

The mayors also noted that the money was supposed to fund various livelihood projects across the province, which did not exist.

"Pursuant to the agreement, Gubaynons received the funds but the alleged projects were never implemented in our province and neither were there actually any proposed projects for which the fund sources be used," they said.

But Casiño dismissed the case filed against him as politically motivated.

"I am willing to face it," Casiño said.

Casiño, however, declined to comment on whether he entered into a consultations of agreement with the GOP.

CHR has also been identified in a special report of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism as among the alleged recipients of the controversial P726-million fertilizer fund.

Camarines Sur: From the pits to list of 10 rich provinces

P INCUMBENT CAMARINES Sur Gov. Lray Villafuerte appears headed for a third and last term, it could be because of the fact that he has been able to accomplish what seemed six years ago as highly improbable—turn his hardly and largely agricultural province into a prime tourism and investment destination.

In a press statement, the governor's office said when Villafuerte was first elected as governor in 2004, the province was only 59th in terms of revenue with only P655 million. It is now the 18th richest province in the country with more than double its 2004 revenue.

Business skills

Having been in business since he was 19 years old, the 53-year-old Lray applied his entrepreneurial skills and "out-of-the-box" management style in identifying what the province's competitive advantages could be and maximizing it.

Among these are its being blessed with abundant fish, with the highest literacy rate in the region, near treaty of government-owned land that could be made productive, aside from agriculture, for sports and ecotourists and business investments; and, it's most important resource, the known industriousness of its people.

Productive loans

Getting access to various loan facilities to finance its development program, among them a P2 billion loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines, Villafuerte started with the establishment of the Camsur Microenterprise Complex (CMC).

The provincial capitol complex has since been dedicated as a special economic zone for purpose of tourism development.

Since it was established, CMC has hosted global and international sporting events such as the World Wakeboard Championships in August last year, it played host to the first Philippine edition of the prestigious Ironman Triathlon, considered as the premier triathlon event worldwide.

Caravanan

Aside from the CMC, the provincial government has started developing its prime beaches of Caramoan, the site of the French edition of the Survivor reality TV program, as prime tourist destinations.

These efforts enabled Camsur to surpass perennial tourist favorites Cebu and Boracay.

Since "everyone's trying hard to be in better services and more property," Villafuerte was quoted in a press statement as saying.

Some of the money that the province earns from the property, he said, go to scholarships and agricultural productivity programs.

High tech

The province also expanded high-yield investments also such as the Camsur Industrial Technology Park, which has attracted top-notch business such as Richardson Global Services.

A substantial portion of income from tourism, information technology and industrial development has been used to deliver basic services—health, education and housing.

"I believe I have worked hard and led the province well," said Villafuerte. "Our record, our performances, speak for itself."

BIG CHANGE
Comedian Jaime Change distributes ballot boards to motorists at the start of a caravan by the Liberal Party ticket of Benigno Aquino III in Bacoor, where support for the late President Corazon Aquino's son is overwhelming. JOY MALLARI

9 held in Cebu in raid vs private armies

By Chino Jerugan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THREE DAYS before the elections, police arrested Friday nine persons suspected to be hired guns and seized high-powered firearms inside the home of a barangay captain in a northeastern Cebu town.

A joint team of the Regional Intelligence Office (RIO) and the Regional Special Operation Group (RSOG) arrested Brendan Medes Magbanua of Tabuelan, Jerrand and Alberto Abenoja of Tabuelan town, Dennis Alberto Bellone of San Remegio town, Romano Medina Solon, Reinaro Subo Wenbibo, Ferdinand Jumawan, Roger Rapido Munar and Walter Pastor Mimbo, all five from Cebu City, during a raid in Sinsingan, Tabuelan, Cebu province, 66 kilometers from Cebu City.

Chief Insp. Romeo Saturnino, RIO chief who led the operation, said the raid was conducted based on a search warrant issued by Cebu Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 10 Judge Soliver Oyos.

The confiscated firearms included a 9 mm machine pistol, three .357 revolvers and two .45-cal. pistols with ammunition.

The nine suspects were arrested inside the house of Carmelo Sinsingan captain Isidro Sinsingan.

Sinsingan refused to cooperatively say that the suspects were hired goons of local candidates in South district but he said their presence in the area was suspect. "What's their (suspects) purpose there?" he said.

He said the court issued a search warrant based on the April 5 shooting of the house of Dilando Mondel, a supporter of a mayoral candidate.

Santander refused to cooperatively say that the suspects were hired goons of local candidates in South district but he said their presence in the area was suspect. "What's their (suspects) purpose there?" he said.

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Grenade blasts raise election violence fears in Laguna town

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Two grenade attacks rocked Calauyan, Laguna, on Thursday, raising fears of violence on Election Day in the town.

The grenades exploded in farms owned by government officials in the town, according to police.

On Thursday evening, a grenade exploded at the farmhouse of village captain Inocencio Ilagan in Barangay Ilingan. No one was hurt but the blast destroyed the roof of the farmhouse, Calauyan police chief Supt. Danny Novicio said.

In another attack earlier, a grenade exploded in a farmhouse owned by incumbent Calauyan Mayor Isidro Hernedez in Barangay Masmid at about 4 a.m., said Novicio.

The farm caretaker, Noel Escalera, 37, was sleeping in the farmhouse when the explosion occurred. He suffered minor injuries.

Police are investigating if the two attacks were related.

Novicio, however, said policemen couldn't be a motive in the attacks.

"They would (try) blow up his (Hernedez) farm" said Novicio.

Police said they were looking at reports that a driver who lost his job last month could be a suspect in the attacks.

Some of the mayor's staffers, however, said some supporters of Hernedez had removed black ribbons with death threats.

Hernedez, of the Nacionalista Party, is running for reelection against Nila Agrella, an administration candidate and former mayor, and Jaime Caringal, retired police general.

"Calauyan was peaceful before. These violent incidents happened for the first time," said Novicio. *Blurtar Glores, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Farm woes, politics mix in Benguet vegetable belt

By Dotmar Cadiz
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—The province's major vegetable producing towns have become a crucial battleground for the campaign of local candidates who know that winning the farmers' votes would be crucial to their bids.

The province's seven candidates for representative and three bets for governor vow to fight their province's battle for fairness in the campaign and counting on their support would mean a lot on Election Day and Sorry Lubrynes, Cooperative Bank of Benguet general manager.

Close to 78 percent of the province's votes come from farmers and counting on their support would mean a lot on Election Day and Sorry Lubrynes, Cooperative Bank of Benguet general manager.

Sensitive voters

"Farmers are sensitive voters. They would vote for candidates who really worked hard to fight for their cause," he said.

FARMERS of La Trinidad, Benguet, which produces some of the vegetables that lenten (Manila) eaters every day, want new leaders who will fight for their rights. RICHARD BALUCANG/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Lub-oyan said candidates nationally contend more effort in campaign before farmers since they remained a very potent voting bloc despite being grouped loosely.

The Benguet Federation of Farmers Inc. (BFFI) said this explained why congressional and gubernatorial candidates would hold more rallies in farmers' areas, even until the town fiesta, in town' votes.

In fact, Jose Andres and Loreto Bugnosen, BFFI president and public information officer, respectively, have decided to throw their hat into the political ring.

Both are running for provincial board members with the hope of cashing from the votes of farmers.

Vegetable belt

The province has 105,536 registered voters in 13 towns.

A total of 121,508 votes are registered in the towns that comprise what is known as the province's vegetable belt—Atok, Bokod, Buguias, Kapangan, Kibungan, La Trinidad, Mankayan and Tuba.

The rest of the voters come from Sablan, Tuba, Itogon, Kabayan and Baked where most small-scale miners live and work.

The province's four congressional district seat is being contested by Ronald Cosalan (Lakas-Kampi-CMD), Jack Dalisman (Nacionalista Party), Ricky Espadon (Bangon Pilipinas), Leo Iggas (PDP-Laban), Mario Godio (Labor-Kampi-CMD), Thomas Chanon (Independent) and Bella Gaerlan (Independent).

Raul Molintas Dominguez Pengey's Coalition) and Samuel Dangiwa Uyaguen (Nacionalista) are challenging incumbent Gov. Nestor Fongwan (Lakas-Kampi-CMD).

Wooing votes

All candidates vowed to fight unfair practices in the vegetable trade, vegetable smuggling and importation, provide more postharvest facilities and farm to market roads and measures to access more practical irrigation that would ease farmers' problems.

Lub-oyan said farmers could discern who of the candidates really worked for their welfare or who among them failed the more practical platform that candidates have given.

"The problem of smuggling and the zero tariff rate for foreign vegetables have become key issues in this campaign," he said.

SC: It's all systems go; junks Erap, Bro. Eddie petitions

From page A1

hand to refer the Comelec to postpone the elections for a maximum of 15 days and to invest back to manual polls.

Macapagal said the magistrates found "no grave abuse of discretion" on the part of Comelec and did not even see require poll officials to officially comment on the petition for postponement.

Estrada should have gone to the Comelec first, Macapagal said.

Another presidential aspirant, televangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva, still has a pending petition with the Comelec urging the poll body to postpone Monday's balloting.

The Comelec has not acted on Villanueva's petition and has given no indication it would act on it before Monday's vote.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said the commission has not scheduled any hearing this weekend.

Speculative argument

The Supreme Court based that Estrada raised "speculative arguments" and "factual issues" about the state of the voting machines which the court could not rule on, Macapagal said.

The Supreme Court dismissed a similar petition filed by the Philippine Computer Society.

It also dismissed a petition filed Wednesday by a group led by University of the Philippines professor Harry Roque asking the court to compel the Comelec to conduct manual elections but without asking for postponement.

A petition filed by the group Computer for Peaceful and Democratic Elections to postpone ballot safeguards was also dismissed for "failure to observe remedies," according to Macapagal.

"The Court is dismissing the petitions, there being no grave abuse of discretion and for failure to exhaust all remedies because these cases should be filed before Comelec," he said.

Macapagal said that Estrada and the Philippine Computer Society should have gone to the Supreme Court only after the Comelec had denied their pleas.

"The Court of course saw the urgency but these (petitioner) cables from material defects so they were dismissed," Macapagal said.

Palace pleased

On Estrada's allegation that the machines did not read the ballots correctly during trial runs, Macapagal said, "I don't think they were concerned with that because petitioners were not able to substantiate their allegations. It wasn't established before the Court that there were defects and that Comelec wasn't able to remedy these defects."

Malacañang welcomed the high court's actions.

"We're pleased with the high court's decision, and we hope this will serve to further reassure our countrymen and encourage them to actively support and participate in the coming elections," Deputy Presidential spokesperson Gary Olivar said in a statement.

Estrada, through his lawyers, had asked for a temporary restraining order from the court.

In some past petitions, Estrada asked the court to order the Comelec to stop all preparations for the automated elections and to start working for the holding of manual elections.

Estrada referred to the widespread failure of the PCOS machines during mock elections and during the testing and sealing phase as the reason for his petition. During the tests, rates for some machines soared under 60% during the May 6 mock elections.

"They failed tests, serious and flagrant as they are, caused a reasonable ground to believe that the automated elections scheduled for May 10, 2010, as headed towards a chaotic, if not total failure of elections," said Estrada's petition, filed by lawyers Roberto Cabrales and Alexis Lush Lava.

"Serious errors have appeared from that the clustered confusion and turmoil may become so unmanageable that it could place the country in a state of emergency," the petition added.

Inquirer story

Estrada's petition also submitted to the Supreme report on mock elections in six towns in Oriental Mindoro where some 56 presidential candidates – Manny Villar and Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III were counted for Gilbert Teodoro in some candidates weren't credited during the mock elections.

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Inquirer story

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'Doctorness in days-log'

Another presidential candidate, Sen. Richard Gordon, the author of "the country's redemption law, warned there a shift back to manual counting could lead to cheating, a problem that has hounded the country's previous manual elections.

Gordon said that the point of the PCOS machine's election was to help prevent cheating and that a return to manual counting would allow those with "doctorness in days-log" to be active again. **PCOS a report from Editors Emelio Jr.**

Not quite Pacquiao, Dick settles for Manny Paksiw

From page A1

Gordon said running mate Bayani Fernando in Manila on City Thursday night was Sen. Manny Villar's major celebrity endorsed boxing icon Manny Pacquiao.

With his famous (mess), Freddie Roach, standing behind Pacquiao, Villar raised Gordon's left hand—in front of some 5,000 people at the Maidana City Reorkunke amphitheater.

Villar used and left. It wasn't the real Pacquiao it was a look-alike impersonator Manny Dikson. It wasn't the actual Freddie Roach either, but a man who called himself Freddie Cockroach.

They are among the entertainers the showed their support for Gordon's Nagkaisa Pilipinas Party and professional sayings in between the campaign speeches of Gordon, Fernando and their local candidates.

Freddie Cockroach, whose real name is Ronnie Jimenez, said: "We are supporting Bong because we believe they are the best leaders for our country."

Jimenez said Manny Dikson, whose real name is Johnny Bagasin is "one hell of a boxer" considered from Las Vilas City. Jimenez was on "extra" in the defunct sitcom "Home Along Da Riles." Bagasin has been impersonating Pacquiao in the last five years.

Last rally in Subic

The crowd also cheered when Internet comedians Mocanya Palabra and his brother Bradley sang with their "Kuya" duet. The brothers decided to volunteer in Gordon's campaign after researching on presidential candidates and believed he was the "best choice."

Singers Aiza Seguerra and Rivalz Hernandez also sang Gordon and Fernando's campaign jingle with its composer Jose Villanueva who wrote the song for Jose.

The rally on Thursday evening was one of the major events in the end of Gordon and Fernando's campaign. The two had immersed themselves in the "mendonesmen" when they started the campaign three months ago in Ilocos, Cordillera—birthplace of Gordon's grandfather.

It succeeds is planned around the metropolis today and is hoping to create in Indio Bay Freeport in Pampanga tomorrow.

At peace

In an interview before going onstage Thursday night, Gordon said he was "totally at peace" as the election drew near, saying that he was not afraid of losing.

Candidates don't win or lose in elections, according to Gordon. The people do.

He said: "I sincerely pray for this country that we will see the light. The silence of the elite is destroying. They are unable to communicate with people who cannot lead."

He also did not hesitate to enumerate his frustrations on how the national campaign went.

Those surveys

Gordon condemned the publication of election surveys that showed him a far fifth. He said they were controlled by people who pay to establish the minds of people.

He frowned on how the Commission on Elections released the Pair Elections Law, saying it was quick to order him to dismantle his overhead billboards while the presidential candidates who had bigger billboards in the provinces were spared.

Gordon also expressed disappointment over how the media covered the televised debates. He said he had tried raising legitimate issues for discussion but the media only picked up the "photocades" from popular candidates.

"They do not even say I am the sponsor of the electoral automation law," he said.

Uphill battle

Asked if he was confident of winning, Gordon said: "I have done my best. I have made my position. I have fought an uphill battle against surveys, and despite having no money."

He lamented that he was only able to reach a small number of people in his land's limited budget and advertising on television was costly.

"A celebrity has a bigger chance of winning than Dick Gordon and Bayani Fernando who have done so much for the country. Then is when we are trying to change," he said.

Fernando sounded more optimistic, but a bit tired.

The smell of victory

"I can smell victory," Fernando said in his speech.

But neither told reporters he would be getting the vote of the "silent majority" who had been exposed to his advocacy of promoting "political will."

He said he had given out pamphlets about his background and plans to some 10 million households, all over the country.

"We thought our voters do not think, but we have not been giving them something to think about. That is why we gave out pamphlets. I have never believed our people's ability to think," Fernando said.

The rally started in the afternoon with a motorcade around the city. The evening program started with speeches from the party's local candidates in the city and ended at midnight.

IT expert tells Comelec: Don't rush to proclaim

By Leila B. Salaverria

DON'T BE IN ANY RUSH TO proclaim the winners.

This is the advice for the Commission on Elections from an information technology expert in the face of the credibility problem that the automated election process did has to surround.

Since the turn of the manual election will not be starting until June 30, the Comelec should not proclaim any of the winning candidates could be reported to issue after the voting, such as allegations of fraud and incorrect counting by the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines, said IT expert Rafael Rimado.

Settle issues first

"Why don't they forget the proclamation of officials on June 23, for instance, and then they would have one-and-a-half months to settle all these issues," said Rimado, who is part of Halalang Marinig! Pilipinas, a citizens' poll-monitoring group.

"There's way little time to settle the issues before the election, but since they have before there, then can settle those issues after the election," he said.

With elections in the country going fully automated for the first time, the winners of the contests, particularly for local positions, are expected to be known in a matter of hours or even days, unlike the slow manual count of the old system.

The Comelec will announce the winners up to the municipal level, while Congress will proclaim the winners in the presidential and vice presidential races.

Rimado said the Comelec should wait for the election manual audit to be completed before proclaiming the winners, a process that various electoral watchdog groups also favor.

"They should wait for that because that is the only way they can't trust the machines. They've lost credibility. They have made mistakes. Do you think our record flung will correct all previous mistakes? It's like if you're given the winning amount when you calculated it on the SAT calculator. You will want your answer again," he said.

The Comelec's election preparations encountered an 11th-hour glitch early this week, prompting warnings that the credibility of the elections may not be credible.

The poll body was forced to install 76,000 compact flashcards that were programmed with information for the PCOS machines after the machines that were already installed in polling precincts all over the country read the test ballots inaccurately.

Accordingly to Rimado, the issues that will likely need settling include claims of cheating or inaccurate counting by the machines.

The Comelec should also expand the grounds for pre-proclamation complaints, he said.

The poll body has limited the grounds to the illegal composition of the board of election inspectors and illegal proceedings.

Rimado said the Comelec should allow candidates to lodge pre-proclamation complaints, for instance against results that have allegedly been tampered with.

Also accusing Ateneo Management Association of the Philippines for documentation and a Ateneo Datbaclaran, proposed an expanded random manual audit covering 20 percent of the 76,000 precincts.

The Comelec is scheduled to conduct the audit in 1.5 percent of the precincts, but Macapagal said this was insufficient.

He said the 21 percent of precincts that the Ofis is proposing is equivalent to roughly 70 precincts for every legislative district and 1,500 precincts for polling precincts nationwide.

The allowable variance between the audit results and the electronic result should be one percent, he added.

According to Macapagal, the 21 percent random manual audit would take seven days at most.

"Given the problems that we have recently encountered with the PCOS machines in particular and the still-automated election system in general, there is an urgent and real need to substantially increase the sampling of the random manual audit to check if the will of the people was reflected accurately in the printed precinct returns," he said.

"If our requests are granted, we will be able to detect and fear genuine administrative by the malfunctioning of the PCOS machines will substantially minimize," Macapagal said.

Underscoring the pillars that have action because of the recent failure of the machines to read the Nacionalista Party's senatorial candidates bumped to the poll body yesterday and called on the Comelec to do everything it can to protect the elections.

Contingency plan

The Comelec's contingency plans for any emergencies should be made clear to the public, they said in a letter.

They also asked the officials of Smartmatic-TIM, Comelec's technology partner, be made to present in the country and that the should begin overseeing. They said the surrender of their passports was not enough.

Comelec Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal said the poll body is still working on all these to deal with the political parties at the Philippine International Convention Center, where the Comelec has its canvassing center, to explain what is happening and the preparations it has been making for the polls.

Guard PCOS like your spouses, teachers told

From page A1

from the Commission on Elections, the teachers should secure them in Bengis a covenant had been hanged between them and the Comelec, Timbending said.

She said the teachers should not be cared or opened except on Election Day. "It's just like a marriage vowed. Once it's signed, you promise to guard your spouse," she said.

The "spouses" took a long time in coming to the town of Pozzo Pagapa. If Mountain southwest of Barangay, Lizzie del Norte, Pozzo Pagapa has a voting population of about 1,500.

Bad roads compounded by heavy rains forced Comelec officials to use the machines three days ahead of the election.

Timbending said the machines should not be used as

Comelec: We're 98% ready

From page A1

se," he said, adding:

"This will not delay the elections."

The renewed suspicion stirred by poll watchdogs and other concerned election officials resulted from the glitches caused by the compact flashcards in the voting machines.

The Comelec said its technical partner, Smartmatic-TIM, have admitted that the flashcards were wrongly configured, leading to inconsistent readings during the test runs.

Smartmatic has reconfigured the cards and now there are no random points misreads.

Because Smartmatic has remedied the configuration glitch, there is no reason to postpone the elections, Jimenez said.

"We are 98 percent ready," he said.

Hash tests

But Christian Monsod, a former Comelec chair, said the poll body should conduct a "hash test" on the voting machines to detect glitches on the veracity of the election results.

A "hash test" is a process of extracting a code stored in a voting machine to determine if this is the same system contained in the source code being held at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The source code contains the instructions installed in each machine processing to the processors of vote counting, tallying, canvassing and transmission.

Monsod, the honorary chair of the Legal Network for Truthful Elections (Lente), and poll officials should meet more often to regain public trust in the run-up to the Monday elections.

He pointed out that public distrust over the automated balloting was primarily brought about by the secrecy of the defective compact flashcards early this week.

"[Election officials] have to meet, solve this (issue) by going out of their way—to meet the people's issues," Monsod said, and told reporters after Lente signed an agreement on election monitoring with the Philippine National Police yesterday at Camp Crame.

Monsod said the hash tests could be done simultaneously with the mandated random manual counts of ballots cast at the close of the voting period at the precinct level.

"This is an additional safeguard needed to allay fears of the people that the machines may be pulled off," Monsod said.

He said computer technicians could easily perform the test on the voting machines to dissipate concerns on the integrity of the elections.

Arrogance

Monsod stressed the need for the Comelec en Banc to overrule over the flashcard-based Smartmatic is managing the elections.

"The Comelec has abdicated [part] of its role to Smartmatic unnecessarily. It should have supervision over Smartmatic, and not the other way around," he said.

Monsod assailed Smartmatic officials for being "too arrogant in running the elections."

He said the discovery of the defective flashcards was "a blessing in disguise" and "a wake-up call for the Comelec and Smartmatic."

He pointed out that Smartmatic officials told the media last month that they were 100 percent ready for the elections, only to admit errors in configuring the flashcards.

"They patted their backs prematurely. This is a dangerous kind of mentality," he said.

Monsod said the Comelec should assure the credibility of the automation of the local elections which, he noted, would be the foundation of a believable electoral process.

"It is in the communities where the votes are delivered. If the communities accept the results of the local elections, then I think we won't have problems at the national level," he said.

Patience

Monsod said "what we need from our people, the voters and the candidates is a little patience with the Comelec and to cooperate, to be understanding and allow the election process to be completed."

He urged the public to put up with the Comelec and its weaknesses, and said he was backing the call of Commission on Human Rights Chair Leila de Lima to hold those accountable for the defective flashcards later.

"The last thing we should be doing is heeding the attacks and fears of the people regarding the elections," Monsod said. "We can deal with it accordingly later, and you can bet on that. But now, we should be working together."

Monsod maintained that the likelihood of a total failure of elections was far fetched.

He said such a scenario should be preceded by these conditions:

- Massive errors in the voting machines,
- Total breakdown of logistics,
- The public's nonacceptance of election results at the local level.

"I don't think these things are coming. Mr. Jun have to be patient with the process," he said.

Jimenez also said the flashcards could not be used to cheat or tamper with the results in the voting machines.

"There are people saying that the flashcards can be used to cheat. That is not true," he said.

Inadequate CCS security

While much of the worries about the May 10 polls are centered on the voting machines, militant lawmakers are also raising an alarm about the system that Congress would use to proclaim the next president and vice president.

The canvassing and consolidation system (CCS), which consists of a laptop and printer, was brought to the House of Representatives session hall on Thursday. It will remain there for Congress' canvassing of the election results.

But Bayan Muna Representatives Teodoro Casiño and Neri Colmenares said the security precautions involving the CCS seemed to be lacking, and asked the Comelec to put in additional safeguards.

In a letter submitted to the Comelec yesterday, Casiño and Colmenares pointed out that the pass words and security tokens of the CCS were in one unsealed envelope.

They said the passwords and tokens would be used to unlock the CCS to gain manual entry to it for emergency purposes in the event of malfunctions, such as those from the erroneous absentee voting.

In an interview, Casiño said anybody would have accessed the password and username before these were brought to the House.

"That's dangerous. I'm not sure about the results of the elections. One of the losing candidates could say he was cheated because somebody was able to access the CCS. There would be room for doubt (about the results)," he said.

Untested capability

Casiño and Colmenares also said the capability of the CCS to encode transmitted data had not been tested.

Villar, Erap, Bro. Eddie: Never say die

From page A1

"I am convinced that come May 10, this party will be victorious unless there is fraud, big scandal with the PCOS (precinct count optical scan) machines," Villar, the Nacionalista Party standard-bearer, said in a press conference on Thursday night.

Estrada is similarly unfazed by the latest survey results released by the polling outfit Social Weather Stations (SWS), which show him trailing Team-running Liberal Party candidate Benigno Aquino III by 10 percentage points.

"We have a very good anchorite that the LP's own poll survey has Senator Aquino slightly ahead of me by a meager 5-8 percentage points. Not too formidable," Estrada told reporters.

Brave face

Although administration candidate Gilbert Teodoro is convinced to be a poorly in the opinion polls, the ruling coalition is putting up a brave face.

"We'll be double digits on Election Day, plus the machinery," Lakas-Kampi-CMD vice presidential prospect Perlita Tirona said of Teodoro's chances. "That is the advantage going for us. Who is the candidate who has campaign facilities in every town? Only our candidate."

Close VP race

In the vice presidential contest, Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay believes his nearest rivals will sweep him past rival Mar Roxas II of the Liberal Party (See story on Page A2.)

Binay of Estrada's Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), and Roxas are tied in first place in the 37 percent to three-fight for the vice presidency, according to the SWS survey carried out May 2-3.

"It's going to be a close fight. But we have the momentum and we have the people behind us," Binay said.

Villar's running mate, Sen. Loren Legarda—in third place in 12 percent after suffering a 12-point plunge in the SWS survey—said: "If they will rig surveys, then should not drop (one) to ten ... because people will not believe the results. People are laughing at them."

Legarda said it was "still anybody's game."

Party machinery

Villar admitted he was unhappy with the recent survey results but said surveys were not a genuine gauge of popular sentiments.

Moreover, he added, his party runs the most organized campaign in the country, having consolidators to the local elections from the north to south.

"Our group is intact throughout the country for the past two days, I have been calling all of them and they are very ready," Villar said in Filipino.

Villar said he hoped the Commission on Elections (Comelec) would be able to successfully implement the country's first automated elections on Monday, despite technical glitches in the compact flashcards that surfaced earlier this week.

"What I want is that no many complications" would arise from postponing the elections, as some people had proposed. "If we delay it, there might be political chaos," he warned.

Villar also noted that many voters "do not understand" the PCOS machines, which could create problems.

"That is why, for many people like me, we don't know anything about the machines. That is why we are relying on what the Comelec is saying," he said.

Real survey

Legarda said the didn't want to quarrel with results were surveys, "which could be fought to influence voters through reading."

"I see the real survey on the ground—and that's the real survey," she said, referring to the crowds that had assembled for her and Villar's rallies.

She denied the PMP and Pedro Atas, another political party backing the campaign of opositions, their whereabouts and phone numbers to answer allegations that the surveys were rigged in favor certain candidates.

In a statement, the NP disclosed the intent-leading three-fourths of PMV and Pedro at to discount, it said, six documents submitted to the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

"Thus, the results of the survey may have been influenced by Aquino's entry," the NP said.

Ruling party's network

Pichay claimed that the ruling party's network of more than 13,000 gubernatorial, congressional, mayoral and other local candidates would deliver "8 to 9 million votes" for Teodoro.

"That's our command vote," he said. "With 8 to 9 million votes, plus another 3 million votes from Team Unity will put him (Teodoro) in the running."

Pichay said the party "is as solid" for Teodoro as it was for President Macapagal-Arroyo when she won the presidency in 2004, despite the nagging problems of dollarbirdism and alleged interference that cardinal Jaime Sin brought to the campaign.

Supermajority party presidential aspirant Sen. Richard Gordon said he was not afraid of losing, adding he could always go back to the Philippine National Red Cross, where he is the chair.

Interviewed in Muddina City on Thursday, Gordon said he decided to run for president to give people a choice and enlighten them about the things that had gone wrong in the country. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Elison Tordesillas Jr.*

Weak justice system fuels Mindanao war

From page A1

tion in Monday's elections.

The latest arrest order came on Jan. 5, 2006, from Judge Mary Ann Corpus Mallubay of the Makati Regional Trial Court. The Supreme Court had assigned her the case after Tumano's family complained of the delay and its head blamed on technical and harassment.

The Tumanos case illustrates the fragility of government institutions in the south that is fueling a Muslim separatist war. Over the past four decades, the insurgency has claimed 120,000 lives in a region torn by communal conflicts, a continuous rebellion and hostility.

Climate of impunity

Weak law enforcement also has exacerbated a climate of impunity in Mindanao whose horrific magnitude shocked the nation on Nov. 23 when 57 people were massacred—some of them raped and mutilated—in Maguindanao.

The daughter of progressive and members of the Mangudadatu family contesting the gubernatorial post in the province ruled by the Ampatuan clan, a political warlord family in Muslim Maguindanao province, was the most favored pet in the nation's history.

The dead included 30 journalists—the worst in any incident anywhere in the world and underscored the country's notoriety as one of the world's most dangerous places for reporters after Iraq and Somalia.

The President had to impose martial law to effect the arrest of suspects during the night days it was in force.

Public outrage at the slaughter overwhelmed after Justice Secretary Alberto Agra sought to extradite two detained members of the Ampatuan clan blamed for the massacre in an action that sparked a protest by prosecutors. Agra later backtracked and recalled his order.

Challenge for next president

Peace and order in Mindanao is one of the challenges that the new administration must address to lift the nation from poverty and underdevelopment.

The Tumano family believes the killing of the army officers, a 1990 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy was a result of his unrelenting anti-drug campaign in the region and Maguindanao's attempts to provoke a "tribe," or a clan war.

A tribe is normally at offshoot of perceived personal slights whose resolution is beyond the purview of political courts, particularly in areas where the central government is little exercised.

"It's an epic fight. I'm not sure if it's not exactly the same eye. It can be somebody else's eye," says Major E. Indanan, a Muslim scholar and former election commissioner.

The Philippine National Police has so far failed to serve Marbella's warrant.

PNP Director General Jesus Versoza, acknowledging the difficulty of enforcing the law, says there are areas in the region that are controlled by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the communist New People's Army and various armed tribal groups and bandits.

The 'rido'

"It is also hampered by cultural considerations, especially rido," says Versoza.

"The rido is not part of our political system," says Rotonda Ortuoste, a professor of history of rido are normally not brought to court, he says. They are in many cases submitted to arbitration of elders in other mechanisms peculiar to the culture of the people.

He said such a scenario should be preceded by these conditions:

"In the enforcement of laws, and probably obedience to laws, there should be acceptance by the people in the community," says Versoza. "So, we need to modernize them. It is going to be a long process."

Clan wars were a part of the culture in some regions in Luzon as well, says Versoza, but Muslim and Moro have begun to disappear.

"There was this culture of revenge before our laws evolved," says Versoza. "We have difficulty getting people to appreciate the importance of the law."

Dividing such endless armed groups of different tribal and cultural persuasions is one major problem in bringing peace in the region.

"We could not get them together," says Versoza.

Pluralistic character

Historians say that there is much evidence to show a pluralistic character to the Muslim society that developed in the Philippines over the centuries, the Muslim communities in Central Mindanao in the 15th century.

Unlike the Spanish colonizers, the Arab and Indian traders who preached Islam to the region had no interest to empire-building. Their interests did and were assimilated by the local people who accepted the faith. They retained a sense of identity of the place, which the Catholics lost after they entered Spain's northern frontier, Hollywood after that.

The separatist insurgency had roots in the brutalization and promulgated by the measures that sparked a movement of settlers into Mindanao from the country's northern frontier, it formed into a flood under succeeding Filipino administrations.

Government ineptitude

The bewilderment of politicians to Malaysia's failed state, long claimed by the Philippines, fueled the independence movement.

Another part of the narrative says that the Mindanao conflict was in fact the result of government ineptitude over four centuries that sowed the seeds of alienation.

Dr. Abas Candao, 68, head of the foreign-funded Bangsamoro Development Agency based in Cotabato City, blames the government's program to fill Mindanao with Christian settlers for the separatist war and poverty in the region.

"They say it's just poverty and poverty and poverty and there's going to be peace," says Candao, whose agency is preparing for the rehabilitation of the south once peace comes by promoting and funding economically-based development projects such as cottage industry crafts and farm-to-market roads.

"I think a lot of international donors have already realized that this is wrong," says the ulcer-haired physician who spent time in Saudi Arabia as an economic planner.

"The centers of all these things is injustice. The people are being disposed-ised because of injustice. So we have to solve this. We cannot just let injustice happen before our eyes."

Never conquered

Indeed, 54, a professor of islamic and civilizer at the Dilimon campus of the University of the Philippines, says the prevailing sentiment among Muslims is that they were never conquered by the Spaniards or the Americans, holding the latter system.

He says the Americans succeeded in "pacifying" Mindanao and Sulu, setting up an effective public school system and political institutions that slowly diminished the traditional powers wielded by the sultans and the datus.

But while traditional laws have been largely subsumed by colonizers and administrators, penal and personal codes indigenous to the region remained intact, he says.

"When the sultans were dead their power there kept institutions also became less effective," says Indanan. "So most of them became principal lost of the elders of the community and they became the traditional way of solving disputes."

Less promulgated in Manila are also to the Muslims, especially in the uneducated, says Indanan.

He also points out that the expansion of Muslims in the Philippine education system resulted in relatively short period, the years immediately after the World War II that produced moderate leaders—the Tamanos, the Endamans, the Abubakars.

Promise land

That was the generation before the hardliners emerged, notably Nur Misuari, the MNLF chair, in a region regarded as a "promise land." But has become the region's most impoverished, he added. The quality of education is lowest in the region.

"That's how short the educational exposure of the Muslims was to the Philippine education system and, consequently, also to the Philippine legal system," says Indanan.

"Consequently, when there are cases, whether criminal or civil, the tendency of Muslims, especially those who are not well-versed, is to go to the traditional leaders, the datus, the elders," he said.

The Muslims look to development projects in the arms way, and financing for them as personal funds of political leaders in the state fashion the Ampatuan were treated investor, perhaps influential, he said.

"[It is personal to the reason] to dispense with. It's a personal income. They think they have a personal right to their position and they tend to connect their family fortunes to their position as leaders," says Indanan.

"The uniqueness don't want to be dislodged from positions of power. Economic livelihood merged with political powers. They could not separate the interests," he says.

Things add up

"All of these things add up, and the possibility of peace, and order reigning permanently in Mindanao is very remote," says Indanan.

Tumano's brother, Gladimar, says that in his Marawi hometown in Lanao del Sur people are following the case of the slain superstar as they do the soap of the Ampatuans.

"They want to know if somewhere runs throughout as you see work reforms from the courts," says Gladimar Tumano.

Setting an example

"We have once more proved revenge. We want to set an example to people of Lanao del Sur not to do wrong when someone has done you wrong," says Gladimar, who graduated at Lanao del Sur to see that the justice system in the country works."

Tumano was trained after Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who shared the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin for their efforts to bring peace in the Middle East.

He was at the bottom of the list of 261 graduates at the PMA, and earned the distinction of being "the goat" in the class. That entailed getting up on the parade ground for hours on end, things he finds to face the future," said the scion of a politically-influenced Maranao family that had produced senators.

It was a forensic prescription for peace in a world of hate.

Mighty Dwight

Howard bucks bloody nose as Magic rip Hawks anew

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—DWIGHT HOWARD CAME back from a bloody nose to finish with 29 points and 17 rebounds, lifting the Orlando Magic to a 112-98 win over the Atlanta Hawks on Thursday, taking a 2-0 lead in the NBA Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Mario Chalmers had 24 points with some big shots late and Rashard Lewis finished with 20 points, leading Orlando's 18-2 run to the fourth quarter. The perennially poor free-throw shooting Howard also was 15-for-18 from the line.

"Every time I step up there, just believing it was going in," he said.

After a 43-point loss in the opener, Atlanta led early but Jason Terry will searching for a way to stop the Magic's 12-game winning streak. Al Horford led the Hawks with 24 points, and Joe Johnson had 19 points.

Game 3 is Saturday in Atlanta.

Howard made a layup as he was tripped in the face inadvertently by Horford to start the third quarter, the blood pouring from the Magic center's nose. Howard shot the free throws—and missed—with plugs in his nostrils, holding back laughter, and then left the floor. 2 minutes and 9 minutes could stop the bleeding.

The play started an 11-2 run that erased Atlanta's early nine-point lead and put the Magic ahead 62-59.

A flurry of Magic three-pointers sent the Hawks packing with another loss to their Southeast Division rival, which has won eight of the last nine games between them. Carter, Lewis, Jameer Nelson and Michael Pietrus all made one from beyond the arc during the big fourth quarter spurt that put Orlando ahead by 18.

"We didn't play our best basketball in the first half but we were still within arm's reach," Carter said. "In the second half we played like the Orlando Magic."

Not even a near-perfect night on free throws for the Hawks (20 for 21) could prevent another loss in Orlando, which moved past two games away in the best-of-seven series from returning to the conference finals.

The Magic continued to be the only unbeaten squad in the postseason.

Earlier before the game, Howard and LeBron James of Cleveland were unanimous choices for the All-NBA Team, while Kobe Bryant received 119 of 123 votes from writers and broadcasters.

James won a unanimous pick for the second straight season and made his fourth all-NBA Team. The Cleveland star won the MVP award for the second year in a row.

Kevin Durant and Dwyane Wade completed the first team Thursday. AP

ORLANDO Magic center Dwight Howard soars for a basket over helpless Atlanta Hawks counterpart Zaza Pachulia (below) and another Atlanta defender during Game 2 of their second round playoff series.

WORLD OF SPORTS

Holmes, Allenby share TPC lead; Woods 4 back

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA—JB Holmes and Australia's Robert Allenby shared the Players Championship lead at 8-under 64 after the opening round Thursday.

Coming off the worst performance of his career, Tiger Woods contend a ragged start and made his only bogey on the final hole for a 2-under 70 at the TPC Sawgrass.

Holmes and Allenby were a stroke ahead of eight players, including England's Lee Westwood and 45-year-old Kenny Perry. In tough conditions with only a swirling breeze late in the day, 36 players broke 72, the most for the opening round of this tournament since 1994.

Francesco Molinari of Italy had a chance to join the leaders until he chopped up the par-5 ninth hole for a bogey and joined the large group at 69. Tied at 69 included Jim Furyk, Vijay Singh and Ernie Els.

Masters champion Phil Mickelson, who has a chance to be No. 1 in the world for the first time with a victory and Woods failing out of the top five, didn't play his best but still managed a 70. AP

Jankovic flatters Williams

ROME—This time Chanatorn Jelena Jankovic rolled to a comprehensive 6-0, 6-1 victory over Venus Williams on Thursday and prevented an all-Williams semifinal at the Italian Open.

Williams struggled with her serve and never really threatened on a cool evening at the Foro Italico.

Earlier, younger sister Serena Williams overcame a rough stretch in the second set to dispatch Maria Kirilenko, 6-1, 6-4.

In the other half of the draw, former No. 1 Ana Ivanovic beat 14th-seeded Nadia Petrova 6-3, 7-5, and will face 26th-ranked Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez of Spain, who beat Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 7-6 (3), 6-4. AP

Juvic seizes lead; Bayron 3 behind

JAKARTA—JUVIC PAGUNSAN produced the kind of shooting golf he is renowned for to take the third-round lead in the $50,000 Kirdus Indonesia Championship Friday at the Emerald Hijau Golf Club, near Jakarta.

The Filipino fired a three-under par 69 after completing a second-round 65 earlier in the day to grab a one-shot lead over Thai Wiao Amjaroean, who had a 70.

Pagunsan, looking for his first Mercedes-Benz Tour title, had to complete the final two holes of his second round in the morning due to Thursday's rain delay, but he turned adversity into success.

He birdied those two holes for a course record-equaling 65 to finish joint second with Wiao and three-under another four birdies in the first 10 holes.

The 31-year-old former Asian Tour Rookie of the Year made five birdies and two bogeys to lead the tournament at 12-under 204.

"It is quite a third course and you can make plenty of birdies," said Pagunsan.

Jay Bayron, the first-round leader with a 66, fired a 69 that kept him in contention at 207.

Antonio Lascuña produced the best 3LP rated in the third round with a 67 to be at 208.

Eight other Filipinos survived the cut, but the biggest casualties were Artemio Murakami (75-70), the winner of the ME Tour's kick-off leg, and the returning Gerald Rosales (76-75).

Dean Shenker (by dint) among the Filipinos at 211 after a 76. Marvin Dumandan (68) and Mars Pizzay (69) were tied at 212.

Anthony Fernando (70) lay at 213, a shot clear of Jerome Delantin (74). Michael Bibat (72) was at 217 followed by Angelo Que (75) at 219 and Fredie Aurino (77) at 220.

GIVING BACK Alec Sabut Jr., product management and development group head of Eastern Communications, presents a replica of a check for P50,000 to Liezel Fernandez-Donasco of the Foundation for Information Technology Education Inc., the beneficiary of the communication firm's recent 2nd Call badminton tournament, which had some 300 players who vied in 11 categories. FITE-ED's thrust is to provide IT education to the country's public school teachers.

RACING TIPS

By TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

Race 1—Pinakamalas, Gab A. Dayata (1), Sweet Victoria, Rey T. Dayata (2), Mighty Mouse, Jonathan Hernandez (3), Mystical Rose, Jeffrey Dayata (4), Mighty Mouse, Jonathan Hernandez (5), Mystical Rose, Jeffrey Dayata (6), Mighty Mouse, Jonathan Hernandez (7), Mystical Rose, Jeffrey Dayata (8), Mighty Mouse, Jonathan Hernandez (9), Mystical Rose, Jeffrey Dayata

Tamaraws rally past Blazers; Falcons up

By Jarmine W. Payo

OLE EASTERN UNIversity roared at a 13-point deficit before Bell Cervantes took charge in the last four minutes to rally the Tamaraws past host St. Benilde Blazers, 75-71, yesterday in the FILOIL Flying V Sunbay Pre-Pro Season basketball cup.

Cervantes pumped in 10 of his game-high 27 points for the surprisingly listless Tamaraws, who fished their record to 1-1.

Alimosa Cruz also parked up his third win with an 84-74 victory over the Under 19 JR' Youth Team in the second game in the FILOIL Flying V tournament here Asia.

Lester Alvarez paced Jose Rizal to double figures with 18 markers.

FEU coach Glenn Capacio credited Cervantes, a 6-foot-4 veteran, for leading the Tamaraws from a 59-64 hole in the final 4:30.

"He's playing really well in this tournament, so I gave him the go signal to lead us and he did," said Capacio. "I know his capabilities and he showed it today. I hope he sustains it."

BB Bautista's lay-up sealed itself the Tamaraws' lead at 75-71 with 16.6 seconds left.

"This is another season booster for the team," said coach Leo Austria, whose Falcons are currently ranked last in the Under-19 Division. "With the momentum on our side, we're positive that we are on the right track."

The Nationals last threatened within four, 76-72, but consecutive turnovers drowned the high school standouts.

Box Score

FEU (84) – Arrogante 17, Garcia 12, Bautista 11, Mendoza 8, Bonoan 7, Ulit 6, Alimosa 6, Cruz 5, Cardenas 5, Rosal 4, Ramos 0, Tolentino 0, Bautista 0, Ramos 0, Ramos 0, Ramos

#21 Rodney of Coca-Cola fades away for a shot off Marcel Hugnatan of Alaska in last night's game

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

Simpson's alley-oop dunk rescues Alaska

By Jane Manuro

DENNIS SIMPSON'S ALLEY-OOP DUNK with 2.1 seconds left survived Alaska to a nerve-wracking 104-103 win over Coca-Cola last night in the PBA Fiesta Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Fired by a Larry Fonacier pick, Simpson soared to receive an inbound lob from Tony Dela Cruz and then rammed it home with a two-hand jam.

Erik Cleaf's lefty move-the-pin feed helped him to swipe for a technical foul that allowed Tony Dela to make a free throw and give Coca-Cola a one-point edge going into the final plays.

In the second game, Sen Miguel Beer blasted the visiting Air Force squad to submit due to injury and crushed Sta. Lucia with a strong second half, 93-74.

The Brewmen used a 30-9 run midway through the final two periods to stretch a 60-65 edge to 90-65 en the way to their eighth win in nine outings.

Sta. Lucia fell to 3-5.

The Tigers blew the match when James Ibuna muffed two shootins, allowing Alaska coach Tim Cone to chew up on his last offensive effort with 2.5 ticks remaining.

"Coach Tim told me what to do and I had to catch it," said Simpson, who finished with 27 points on top of 17 rebounds.

"I was nervous catching the ball but I did it perfectly," added Simpson after lifting the Aces to their fourth victory in seven games.

The Tigers bottled several golden opportunities in the homestretch including Dyrey's errors in turnovers.

"It would have been a different ballgame if he had made those free throws," said Alaska coach Tim Cone.

Cyrus Baguio had 24 points for the Aces, sinking the third straight time the high-flying wingman punched in double figures since he was traded by Barangay Ginebra for Willie Miller.

"Cyrus brought a different dimension but we're not sure how to use him yet," said Cone.

The loss was painful for the Tigers, who were upset a 4-3 record.

"It's a loss which is hard to swallow," said coach Bo Perasol. "We could have made those free throws in the end and changed the complexion of the game."

David finished with a conference-high 31 points for the Tigers.

Caguioa: Case of shooter felled by his ricochet

FOR ROUTINELY THE BALL IS "BEHIND" you, Barangay Ginebra's Mark Caguioa was slapped a one-game suspension and a P20,000 fine yesterday.

Caguioa will serve the suspension in matches when the Gin Kings take on the Ginebra San Miguel Governors.

PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios announced the penalty yesterday after reviewing the video footage of the incident during the Gin Kings' 104-103 win over Alaska.

Barrios said he gave more weight to Caguioa's action rather than his ability.

"The commissioner said the foreign shooter Caguioa, anticipated about to go out of bounds, looking at Borneo, dribble first before bouncing the ball kasi off the sidelines down.

"It [was] difficult to accept Caguioa's contention that he was surprised to see an extra dribble there, and he didn't see he was bouncing the ball off a game official," said Barrios.

Seeing possession by hitting an opponent with the ball is an accepted play, but Caguioa's target was the ref and not an opponent, the league said.

His said that even if Caguioa claimed to have thought of bouncing the ball off an opponent, the logical way to do it was to bounce it off on the lower portion of the body from the knees down. —Jane Manuro

Aplus METRO
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Robin Padilla faces suit for condom ad

Product endorser not a good role model for youth, says Senate bet

By Jodi M. Sandoy

ACTOR ROBIN PADILLA, THE "Bad Boy of Philippine Movies" is being sued for actively endorsing condoms which a political party claimed is an affront to public sensibilities.

Ang Kapatiran Party (AKP) senatorial candidate and lawyer Jo Imbong yesterday asked the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to stop a firm promoting the use of condoms, and its most prominent endorser, from advertising the contraceptive in ads, saying that such materials are against public decency and morality.

Defendants

Named as defendants in the complaint were actor Robin Padilla and 1602 Phils Inc.

The actor is the endorser for Trust Condoms, a brand under the Trust Family Planning line of contraceptive products.

PADILLA

Imbong went to court accompanied by AKP standard bearer JC de los Reyes, who has taken a stand against the proposed reproductive health bill.

"It is respectfully prayed that a writ of preliminary injunction be issued ordering defendant Padilla to cease and desist from publicly espousing and promoting condoms and condom use," the complaint read.

In an interview, Imbong said it was only right that the government should use its powers to safeguard the moral sentiments of its citizens.

"The history of great civilizations shows that when its citizens lose/defend sex and

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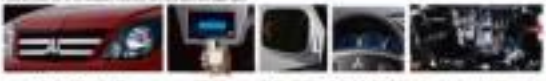

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Drivesmith

Explosive found near mayoral bet's HQ in Pasig City

By DJ Yap and Nikka Calleja

AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS FOUND IN front of Pasig City Mayor Robert Barbers headquarters yesterday afternoon, but it was quickly detonated by the bomb squad and the Special Weapons and Tactics team.

The explosive device, which measured 6A, was discovered around 2 p.m. Senior Supt. Jesse Cardenas, city police chief, said they received a report that a green plastic bag containing a cellular phone wrapped in tape was left in front of the gate of a steel fabrication shop in Barangay Maybunga, headquarters of the campaign team of Barbers, who is seeking a second term. Three officers are running for mayor of the city.

Cardenas said that based on the EPDD team's assessment, the explosive had enough force to cause substantial harm and would likely have resulted in fatalities.

He said the device was discovered when the plastic bag and alerted the police, but did not know who left it, Cardenas added.

The official said they did not have enough information to attribute political motive to the incident.

The firearms ruled her ruled to reach Barbers vice mayoral bet Andrea Bautista said they discarded the bomb through a "water cannon," or applying high-pressure water on the explosive with a water cannon. Bautista's staff said they would beef up security around the mayor as a precaution, although they had no plans of changing his schedule and campaign.

Meanwhile two men ordered a motorcycle with no plates were arrested in front of Hidden Mayor and vice presidential candidate Jejomar Binay's house yesterday afternoon for carrying loaded weapons in the neighborhood.

PO2 Amiello Arcilla, desk officer of Makati's Precinct 5, said Binay's security bodyguard targets Wilfredo Flores, 33, and Romilon Perez, 30, to the police station around 4 p.m. after the two were caught during a search by Binay's house.

Arcilla said Binay's security team found the suspects carrying an ice pick and fan knife and several SIM cards.

"They could be charged with illegal possession of firearms," Arcilla said.

One suspect was wearing a red feminine shirt, while the other man was carrying a "cell" identified with the name of Ida Marie Ramos Mercado, police said. Binay's son, Senator Gwen Sharon" Binay Jr., is running against Senator Loren Legarda.

The younger Binay said his security escorts noticed the two going back and forth Guaraj St., Barangay San Antonio, where the Binays' house is located. After a quick search, the suspects were found carrying loaded weapons, Arcilla said.

The incident is still being investigated by the police to find out if the crew are supporters of his political rivals. "We don't want pointing fingers at anybody because the police are still conducting its investigation," he said.

Graft raps filed against Muntinlupa mayor; 'old trick'—San Pedro camp

By Mike Navalza

A FORMER MUNTINLUPA CITY LIONS other councilor accused Mayor Aldrin San Pedro of graft stemming from the purchase of 40,000 school bags for preschool and elementary students in 2008, which the city official allegedly failed to converge.

Ike Arciaga, a retired fire officer and the Ombudsman yesterday, Rafael Arciaga said the mayor put the city in an "dead, compromised" position with the acquisition of the school bags into your age, which was funded by a loan because no funds were allotted for the purchase in the city's annual procurement plan (APP).

"To recall, only required investment projects are covered by this indebtedness," Arciaga said in his complaint-questioning, citations from the local government code. "Today, school bags are not, since in the first place, Mayor San Pedro should have reported it as a deficit for that purpose in the APP of Muntinlupa City."

Omar Acosta, Muntinlupa City public information officer, said the allegations were fabrications.

"The filing of the case is clearly politically motivated since it was done three days before the filing of candidacies. The complainant is part of the Peranda team that has been spreading lies against Mayor San Pedro during the campaign season. The people of Muntinlupa will not be fooled by this old trick," he said.

San Pedro is running against Jaime Fresnedi, a former councilor, for city.

Arciaga claimed the local government apparently used "old-accounting" the purchase of school bags, citing parts of the 2008 Commission on Audit (COA) report.

The commission's review said the city council had approved the ordinance to effect the acquisition of the bags for six months, but the audit officer indicated that the revised APP "was only prepared and submitted only after the purchase was accomplished ... [and] it was not approved by the Sangguniang Panglungsod," the complaint said.

"Mayor San Pedro, in accepting this scandalous payment scheme, compromised the best interests of the enrollees and grade school pupils of Muntinlupa City," he added.

San Pedro was also sued for graft by councilor Aldo Olivarez over this year for allegedly using public funds to pay for a trip made by public school teachers to Hong Kong in January.

"This is part of the desperate move by the camp of Jaime Fresnedi hoping to gain points against Mayor Aldrin San Pedro, who is now the overwhelming favorite to win in the May 10 elections based on surveys and the endorsements of various church and civic groups in Muntinlupa," said Acosta.

A scenario too scary to imagine

ON TARGET

RANDY JAGO

IF PUCKETS OF TROUBLE BESIEGE me in every parts of the country because of the failure of election arising from the automated counting machines of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), the police and the military should not panic.

Those who have had too much on Election Day 10, because the consequences are too scary to imagine.

Here's a possible scenario: Losing candidates will protest, claiming that the defective or tampered machines are making cockadoodie. They summon supporters and armed followers to demonstrate their protests.

On the other hand, winning candidates will also gather their supporters and armed followers to protect their victory.

A clash takes place between the supporters of the winners and losers.

That is the crisis in one town.

There will be pandemonium throughout the country when that scene is replicated in other parts.

. . .

Venezuelan Cecilia Flores, Imeldomelo president for Asia, says his campaign has erased not the glitches in the elections in the dry run of the May 14 elections several days ago.

He assured the public the first automated elections on Monday will be very successful.

He says his confidence showing. Flores says his passport can even be "screwed on the wall," by way of a return to Venezuelan defender's call to the Bureau of Immigration to prevent Imeldomelo exoutflow from leaving the country.

Flores doesn't know the Filipinos. Pero gang, ap on Foreigners who are quite often they should be apologizing for their treatment.

He and Comelec officials, who probably received huge commissions from Smartmatic, might be lynched by a mob if they return to Monday's elections.

. . .

By the time, many people have made up their minds who they will vote for on Monday.

This poll is for the undecided majority, whose votes will make the difference, whether the surveys were right or wrong.

Vote according to who you think is the right candidate for the job.

Does the candidate have the educational background for the job? Is he competent for the position? Does he have the experience? If he's running for re-election, was his performance excellent for him to run again?

Don't vote for a candidate because of his face language since that exercise is like choosing a pet dog: officials are not animals.

Don't vote for a candidate out of pity; you might only vote with tears.

. . .

If you still notice, I didn't include morality in choosing a candidate.

Despite the Catholic church's inherent duty to shun candidates who lead immoral lives, who is not in the first place?

Even priests are not spotlessly clean on the issue of morality.

Tell me one excellent leader who didn't have another woman besides his wife and I'll tell you that leader is either a homosexual or incapable of having sex.

The greater the leader, the greater his sex urge.

MANIFESTO OF UNITY AND COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT AND WORK FOR THE ELECTION OF HON. S.B. BENIGNO "NOYNOY" C. TEODORO AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE MAY 10, 2010 ELECTIONS

WE, former officers and members of the SAMAHANG BARANGAY and all its federations in the municipalities and cities of the province of [illegible], KABATAANG BARANGAY Chapters, and the KABATAANG BARANGAY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS and all its regional centers hereby declare that:

WE ACKNOWLEDGE, with deep appreciation, the outstanding achievements of the Honorable GILBERTO "GIBO" C. TEODORO as a Kabataang Barangay leader since early national but young people of Tarlac and the members of the Kabataang Barangay constituency, nationwide as member of the National Kabataang Barangay Federation's Executive Committee in the capacity as Region III Kabataang Barangay Federation President from 1975 to 1983;

WE COMMEND him as a role model for our young people, today and in the future, because he exemplifies the ideal qualities we seek to develop in every Kabataang Barangay member, in dealing nationwide environments, an informed understanding of the realities of the national condition, a steadfast commitment to serve the people always and and an unyielding integrity in public service, and he is also blessed with the required intelligence, extraordinary management expertise and outstanding leadership capabilities;

WE RECOGNIZE his professional and public service accomplishments, notably as an outstanding graduate of the U.P. College of Law, a Bar Topnotcher, a Master of Law Graduate of Harvard University, an excellent legal practitioner, an outstanding three-term Member of the House of Representatives, a dynamic nationwide leader, and the youngest Secretary of National Defense who succeeded in restoring competence and integrity in the administration of the defense establishment of the country;

WE FIRMLY BELIEVE, based on our many of the public service resume and qualifications of all candidates for the Presidency, that, the Honorable GILBERTO "GIBO" C. TEODORO stands high above the rest, and deserves most our people's most fervent of:

- With outstanding academic and professional qualifications, intelligence, decisive understanding of the realities of the national conditions and the needs of our people, comprehensive administrative and management experience and expertise, excellent government experience, his moral courage, fidelity to the rule of law, honesty in public office, his public service record is unblemished not even by the slightest suspicion of graft and corruption, and his genuine desire to serve our people;
- With clear and genuinely pro-people platform of government that places the welfare of all Filipinos at the heart of programs and policies for national survival, development and growth, and his commitment to the rule of law as the backbone of genuine democratic governance;
- With sterling reputation as a faithful son who values family bonds above self, a loving husband and father, a loyal and trustworthy friend, and fierce defender of the cause of the common man; and
- With credible vitality and energy that matches and exemplifies the latest server of the young to effect authentic positive change in our country, and to transform government into a true servant of the people today and in the future;

IN THESE MIND, WE STAND STRONG AND UNITED, AS WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO SUPPORT AND WORK FOR THE ELECTION OF THE HONORABLE "GIBO" C. TEODORO AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE MAY 10, 2010 ELECTIONS.

MAKALAGDA BAWAT KILOS GAWING MAKABULUHAN

BILANG AY PAKIKIISA SA ADHIKAIN KAPATID, KAIBIGAN, KASAMAHAN AT KAPANALIG SA GILBERTO "GIBO" C. TEODORO – BULANG PANGKALAHATANG KABIBOHANANG PILIPINO

February 6, 2010
Quezon City

Paid by: Members of Kabataang Barangay
2nd Flr., Brgy. Wack Wack, Mandaluyong City

TRUSTING NOYNOY

A Framework for Decision

Jose Gabriel M. La Vita
April 26, 2010

Twelve days from today, we will be crowning the 15th president of our republic in the country's first ever automated elections. A cacophony of slogans and rationales for supporting one candidate or the other permeates the air. Some say this election is about the rich vs the poor. Others say it is about the educated vs the uneducated. Still others say it is about the young vs the old. Some even say it is about the haves vs the have-nots. Unlike Pandanna, or Bicol before us, Manny Pacquiao, Gary Valenciano or Sharon Cuneta are not vying for the presidency. Only two candidates stand for a viable choice and while among eight names and a number of fringe candidates, a choice as to who among them is the best candidate for the job is impossible, it is the people's duty to choose between the two candidates who have the best chance of winning. Obviously then, this election is about a choice between them. And probability, it is one of them will be elected president.

I should take my own measure for choosing Noynoy in the hyperbole those of us who are still undecided and those who could still change their minds may come to the same conclusion. Admittedly, I am not a fan of Noynoy. I did not support his candidacy including since many months ago and 24 hours since months that supposedly decided it. 1978, but encouraged to join the debate in a non-partisan way. You see, I knew Ninoy Aquino. Personally. I knew this as a moment for my children who were still hardly starting of age and not by the time Cory was in this election. I have also studied the life and times of Ninoy and Cory and I am convinced that Noynoy is the best candidate for the presidency right now. And I believe that I have more than one of young Filipinos who are choosing their vote on security that we can make the right decision.

I. WHY NOYNOY

Poverty and corruption, democracy, and Good Governance. Among these are the two overlying issues of this election. Crucial these. Good Noynoy is making. Good from the words of Noynoy's discourse himself. He feels and is his friends.

Poverty & Corruption

It is estimated that more than 27.7 million of Filipinos out of 90 million live below the poverty line. This is based on the National Statistical Coordination Board's (NSCB) poverty incidence estimates in absolute numbers for a family of five. The exact number is not enough to give an idea of. [illegible] Filipinos live on less than P1 million pesos each, effectively they more than 1% of the poor out of poverty. In fact the majority of Filipinos were ranked second in the world in terms of poverty incidence, the number 2 in the world. Only Haiti is more poor than us. Take a look at many countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe and you will see that the majority of the people are living in poverty. Indeed, Pandanna, or Bicol before us, Manny Pacquiao, Gary Valenciano or Sharon Cuneta are not vying for the presidency. Only two candidates stand for a viable choice and while among eight names and a number of fringe candidates, a choice as to who among them is the best candidate for the job is impossible, it is the people's duty to choose between the two candidates who have the best chance of winning. Obviously then, this election is about a choice between them. And probability, it is one of them will be elected president.

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Democracy

In fact we should not be surprised. Recent [illegible] has used the right to the presidency to systematically erode democratic institutions. Elections of honor, and republican and political rights, harassment and violence against the media, an illegal declaration of a state of emergency, and especially the blatant and endemic corruption as clearly are embarrassments of her administration. Noynoy inherits from and is committed to undo the damage done by Arroyo.

In an attempt to muddle the issues, Noynoy's detractors bring up the plight of Filipinos in the Hacienda Luisita. But the fact is he owns less than one percent of the Hacienda. Not to forget, it belongs to both the mayors and in 2006 and has already announced that the entire

continued on page A 27

New footbridge now open to pedestrians in Muntinlupa

By Nino Calleja

THE COUNTRY'S SECOND LONGEST pedestrian footbridge was inaugurated yesterday at Alabang-Zapote Road in Muntinlupa City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo led the inaugural ceremonies, joined by Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Oscar Inocencio and local officials, including Muntinlupa Mayor Aldrin Jaja Bunoy.

Last week, the President also opened the largest footbridge in the country along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

The construction of the Alabang-Zapote footbridge was completed last March as a request to the urgent request of the Muntinlupa government to solve the persistent heavy traffic conditions in the area.

Inocencio said the footbridge, which has a 2.4-metre width and a length of 493 metres, would serve an average of 440,000 pedestrians as stated data and 200,000 during the peak hours.

"Traversing these major streets in the area namely Montillano, Alabang-Zapote Road, and Muntinlupa National Road, the new footbridge has substantially reduced the travel time of motorists.

Inocencio said it was built at the cost of P33.92 million, sourced from funds of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The MMDA said there are now 68 such pedestrian footbridges in critical intersections and major thoroughfares in Metro Manila, servicing a average of 2.2 million pedestrians every day.

Footbridges are expected to provide a safe road network for pedestrians, improve travel speed, and offer easy access to businesses, airports, terminals, rail transits, and evacuating areas.

RAZON WOOS VOTERS
Aniston "Sonny" Razon Jr., former Philippine National Police chief and new candidate for mayor of Manila under the Nacionalista People's Coalition party, mixes voters during his meet-and-greet sortie at Linao Street in San Andres Bukid.

MANIFESTO OF SUPPORT BY THE COALITION OF PARTY LIST REPRESENTATIVES FOR SECRETARY GILBERTO "GIBO" TEODORO JR. TO LEAD THE NATION AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

We are lucrative officers and members of legitimate and duly accredited Party list organizations.

We believe in Sec. Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro's vision for the country and the Filipino people. We are willing to support him in the realization of his vision, and the accomplishment of his mission.

We believe in him as a person, and as a leader. We believe he possesses the qualities we are looking for to lead us through this political abnormalcy — heading a deeply divided nation towards the path of peace and prosperity.

He alone can instill efficiency and honesty in public service which for so long has been plagued our bureaucracy. He alone can patch the rift caused by the fragmentation of our people, which has hindered unity and progress.

We urge everyone to see beyond questionable survey results. We strongly dispute the notion coming from propaganda-driven survey firms that the battle for presidency has narrowed down to two candidates. Such survey results do not truthfully reflect the preference of the voting public at the national level.

We appeal to our people, join us in this crusade for a better Philippines, join us in the support of Sec. Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro. His vision is ours, too.

We urge the Filipino people to vote for the RIGHT and the MOST COMPETENT candidate who could LEAD this nation towards socio-economic prosperity. LET US UNITE AND VOTE FOR GIBO AS PRESIDENT.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE wholeheartedly and unequivocally endorse Secretary of National Defense, the Hon. **GILBERTO** "Gibo" **C. TEODORO, JR.** as our Presidential Candidate for the May 13, 2019 Elections.

REP. SAMUEL "SAMMY" A. ARCHES
SENIOR CITIZENS Partylist

REP. SALVADOR B. BELLOSO
BAYAN Partylist

REP. RANULFO F. CANDENAS
KABATAAN Partylist

REP. JONATHAN A. DELA CRUZ
ABONO Partylist

REP. SAMUEL "SAMMY" A. ARCHES
SENIOR CITIZENS Partylist

REP. ANATOLIO G. ALCOVER, JR.
Alcover Partylist

REP. SALVADOR B. BELLOSO
BAYAN Partylist

REP. DARYL GRACE C. GRANDE
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REP. RANULFO F. CANDENAS
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REP. CESAR PAUL LEONEN PALABAY
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REP. MARIO G. ORAIR
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REP. TEODORO L. CHI
OFW-FAMILY

REP. GUSTILO LAGUARDIA SANTOS
APP

REP. ALFAR YUSOPAMIS
AKBP

REP. ERNESTO S. GAAS III
ANG KASANGGA

HON. NESTOR BARRIENTOS PADUA
COOP

REP. ROMEO JULIO GUERRERO
KAMANGGAGAWA

HON. LITO P. ATIENZA
KABAKA

REP. EDELMAR P. QUINTOS
KALAHI

Paid for by: ABS-PARTYLIST

TRUSTING NOYNOY
A Framework for Decision
Alma Bella M. La Viña
April 08, 2010

From page A16

I have considered this a debt to the heroic transformation by 2010. A contrast, has one Vice-Mayor who has not been able to win over the hearts of the people. Right now, the City of Muntinlupa is looking at their future with the hope that they will be able to win over the hearts of the people. In addition, my message goes to the rest of the candidates, that they should be able to win over the hearts of the people. In addition, my message goes to the rest of the candidates, that they should be able to win over the hearts of the people.

In the fight to strengthen our democracy, I found the love, the hearts of the people above myself. He feels during friends.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

Another thing is the matter of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo - the former president and head of state. In essence, the election is about the entire country and not about one person. Whatever the Philippine people, decided that for many had the best, best, best, and best that the citizens of the country did not. So there we do not today. People are asking why among the candidates will be most suitable for the country. Why is Gloria Macapagal Arroyo not running?

Many Filipino decided to largely withdrawal to support one or to GMA's recent candidacy. There was a time former Defense Secretary Gilbert "Boboy" Teodoro was seemingly short of what Filipinos are looking for in their next leader. For how can he become when he does not even lead our path, when he cannot even put the right people in the right place? Or is it rather placed? He does not even signed with the administration party? In fact, Teodoro's name, the GMA administration is on the ground of the endorsed by some, or to be categorized as one Election City. So be it.

Maybe, maybe, on the other hand, is the enthusiasm of Bondi. There is why he continues to be a leader. Some by his opponents that administration from the administration party or his camp, and the combination of some of its candidates to the GMA ground remain unproved that he is not.

Because he is mostly opposed to Bondi, most Noynoy supports, is just the interests of the people above himself. He feels during friends.

II. THE NOYNOY I KNEW

Independence. Noynoy's traits have resonated a strength like in his and sure should stand for the character office. The most visible of these are motherhood and his household. Specifically, respect for relationship for the sanctity of family ties. They gain the respect of a young people of the Philippines, especially during times when they grow from boyhood into adulthood. Their joy this was Noynoy, but it is how that it was not. You see I now these attributes. It was Noynoy Aquino later.

Also see Noynoy when we were both included in the Council Board of the Ateneo Student Council in 1979. He was the junior year representative while I was the senior year representative of student organizations. My father was languishing in prison, and he is deprived with a life threatening heart condition. Noynoy was 18 and just turned nineteen.

The Noynoy Aquino I knew was highly resourceful in his years. Junior representative is an elected position and requires initiative on the part of the person who is running. This demonstrates the characteristics and other credentials. He was looking for the assistance of the Martial Law time. Through all this, the Noynoy Aquino I knew is not quiet, reticent, and very much in control of himself. He never being outspoken. Frustrated by his coolness, the person that you normally see is that he would approach the issues, develop a plan of action, and then implement it. He often would consult his friends and colleagues in organizations, before he took the first step. He can someone model or coach him and how it is easy to understand like Noynoy. He has the personal demeanor of Cory, not the typical the nature of Noynoy that is what you see that is not all it is a heavy pro-politically.

The Noynoy Aquino I knew was humble. Several years after our first encounter at the Ateneo, after his mother had already been completed as president, I would run into again. Perhaps I was a socially unattractive person and did not know exactly how to greet him that the right way to do so. Noynoy also had not known it, I called the Ateneo in Makati asking whether I was supposed to get through. Noynoy was not a person who was not to be approached. He was not surrounded by people who formally like to get close to him. He was one of the boys and one without the airs like. Sometimes and some Noynoy I had known in the Ateneo. He can. He can be humorous. He is funny.

When he contemplated running in 1978 as one son, then to reconsider when we grant that the interests were of the best interests of the country and there were some the Ateneo graduates, that the Ateneo can make a difference in the country. Noynoy is a survivor with a better image of the best in the world.

Where angry? Where he certainly don't show it. Volume and? He don't yes he was Noynoy was capable to express his sentiments, for he dragged his mother's pain while suffering from cancer and other dangers of a tragic ailing, and sentenced to death by the country. Even without his sentiments that he was when their parents have finally been reunited with their mother. Noynoy's is an emotional person. He laments about Noynoy's political opponents when he was told in was the regional train, arguing and it seems a criminal's son is responsible suffer the pain of his father. What they can't even stand it is he showed suffering that family. Filipinos responsibility with Noynoy, showing them to be human and more sensitive as only victims who sometimes capable are. Misery is what their interpretations and empathy that them to greatness. Resistance or anger was one time Noynoy to maybe greater than to recall. Over and over he. The nation and leader for it. Even more, as a Filipino, he has a conscience, more personable, more friendly, more sensible. I see a man in control. He is responsible, one a man with the potential to be one of our best.

continued on page A20

Robin ...

From page A16

unpaved sexuality from marriage, three prior confessions disintegrated," she added. "We call on Robin to renounce his criminals. He should be a good role model for the young."

De los Reyes cited his supposed belong's more: adding, "I am upset that my children are asking why candidates are being told in convenience stores beside candles," he said.

Bello also asked the court to order PAT Philflex to stop using, publishing, and exhibiting ads on condoms and condom use through television, radio, the Internet and magazines.

The petition also asked respondents the Presidents Earthquake Hazard, which came with a gadget and a few condoms, which Bello said was bought at a convenience store.

"What are these products doing in convenience stores for our youth to see?" asked De los Reyes.

Explicit messages

In justifying her motion complaint, Bello said the complaint and additional messages in the ads convey "an underlying sexual and indecent influence upon the audience, especially the young."

Further, she said that under Child and Youth Welfare Code, 367 (9)(d), violated the rights of children as the ads targeting the youth market "promote or offer access of child abuse of the highest order for the exploitation, commercial and corrupt sexual characteristics."

The respondents' lawyer argued that the public does has a right to a moral and decent environment, and that both Philflex and DKT Philippines violated provisions of the Revised Penal Code.

The advertisers violated Article 201 of the RPC that prohibits immoral doctrines, obscene publications and exhibitions, she said.

Bello also added that Philflex, on the other hand, violated Article 200 which prohibits grave scandal when he publicly promoted and condoned the use of condoms.

METRO BRIEFS

Woman hurt in car-train collision

A 40-YEAR-OLD female passenger of a sports utility vehicle was seriously injured when it hit a car of the Philippine National Railways (PNR) coupled into the SUV while it was crossing the tracks yesterday morning in Bacoor, Cavite (Lt. Mercurio Ruiz).

Ruiz said the woman was unconscious at the time of the incident in Sitio Tanzo, Habay 1, Barangay Molino 4 when the vehicle she was driving was hit by a PNR train.

Ruiz said the woman was unconscious at the time of the incident in Sitio Tanzo, Habay 1, Barangay Molino 4 when the vehicle she was driving was hit by a PNR train.

The train operator was not police investigators to the PNR as he continued his trip. "We have not been able to determine how the collision happened because neither the train operator nor the SUV driver has spoken to us," Barrera said. The MRO traffic enforcement unit has taken over the investigation in the incident.

Jeannette I. Andrade

100 houses lost in Malabon fire

A FIRE razed 100 houses in a community of informal settlers in Potrero, Malabon City, yesterday morning. There were no fatalities, said BFCO Alvin Tenorio, chief of investigation of the Malabon Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), but several residents suffered minor injuries. The fire reportedly started in a house owned by Lizbeth Bravo along Tanduay Road in Potrero. An initial investigation showed that the fire may have been caused by an air-conditioned that was left running. Accordingly to Tenorio, illegal electrical connections ensured in the area, said the city fire also contributed to the spread of the blaze. The air-conditioner unit caught on fire when it was left running. Accordingly to Tenorio, illegal electrical connections ensured in the area, said the city fire also contributed to the spread of the blaze. The air-conditioner unit caught on fire when it was left running. Accordingly to Tenorio, illegal electrical connections ensured in the area, said the city fire also contributed to the spread of the blaze.

Jhanely T. Alamillar

'Mining de avance' for Makati candidates

MAKATI mayoralty candidate Nina Mayor Francelle Mercado claimed yesterday that the camp of Mayor Jejomar Binay and his son Binay, Jejomar Erwin "Junjun" Binay, had attempted to the seventy-seven tactic to block his voting by planting in Barangay Southwestern. Prior to Mercado's rally statement of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and Mercado's mayor to find a leaked supported soon the election of a residential stage in front of the MMDA headquarters on Bonanza Street. The stage was to be donated Bell Navy Station, however chief of Guadalupe Nuevo and a resident supporter of the rival, Cesar Mr. Jun-Jun Binay, had considered to MMDA Chair Oscar Inocencio about side of the voting de avance. In a statement, Mercado said that blocking the event was "undemocratic and action since they have or right to hold assemblies." "As supporters, however, dismantled the stage and the people were left with no choice but to watch from the original side," Mercado said. She said Binay had the idea setting up a dance on the grounds of the University of Makati last night. Together with the United Opposition slate including his father, who is vice presidential candidate, and Senate Bloc Inc. Francisco Gillera Manalo of Nacionalista Party, Senator Grace Poe, Cong. Gen Gerardo, son of Philippine Environment and Sustaining Corp. Chair Elli also Senator, also gathered his supporters prior to a voting de Cuenca last night in Makati's first district, at the corner of Chino Roces Avenue and J.P. Rizal Street near the Philippine Racing Commission office.

Nino Calleja

Pedro Sarec III

PEDRO A. Sarec, a former official of the National Labor Relations Commission, passed away on May 1 in Bacoor, Cavite. He is survived by his wife Zenaida Pascua, children Jonna', Jady, Vivian, Agnes, Rose, Robert and Dulce Marie; grandchildren and siblings Patricio, Gregorio and Ramon. His remains are at De Leyola Memorial Chapels, Daang Hari, Paliparan City. After the Mass at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 9, while burial until take place at Heavenly Memorial Gardens in Bacoor.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

MEMO

TO : Liberal Party Members and Supporters

SUBJECT : No Campaigning at the End of the Campaign Period and on Election Day

DATE : 7 May 2010

This is a reminder to all Liberal Party members and supporters that the campaign period shall officially end at **midnight of 08 May 2010.**

Upon the end of the campaign period, all partisan political activities are prohibited and any acts constituting partisan political activity undertaken after midnight of 08 May 2010 are considered election offenses under Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7166, in relation to Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 (Omnibus Election Code).

Partisan political activity refers to acts designed to promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate or candidates to a public office, which shall include:

1. Forming organizations, associations, clubs, committees or other groups of persons for the purpose of soliciting votes and/or undertaking any campaign for or against a candidate;
2. Holding political caucuses, conferences, meetings, rallies, parades, or other similar assemblies, for the purpose of soliciting votes and/or undertaking any campaign or propaganda for or against a candidate;
3. Making speeches, announcements or commentaries, or holding interviews for or against the election of any candidate for public office;
4. Publishing or distributing campaign literature or materials designed to support or oppose the election of any candidate; or
5. Directly or indirectly soliciting votes, pledges or support for or against a candidate.

For strict compliance.

FLORENCIO B. ABAD
Liberal Party Campaign Manager

Money courier sought in NYC car bomb plot

NEW YORK—INVESTIGATORS OF THE FAILED CAR BOMBING IN Times Square are looking for a money courier they say helped finance cash from overseas to finance a Pakistani-American's preparations to blow up the crude gasoline-and-propane bomb in the heart of New York, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press.

Investigators learn the name of the courier who they believe helped Faisal Shahzad pay for the used sports utility vehicle and other materials to rig up a car bomb that would have caused a huge fireball in Times Square if it had gone off, the official told the AP. The official didn't know how much money was changed hands.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the investigation.

US law enforcement officials traveled to Pakistan—where Shahzad spent five months before returning to the US on February—to question four alleged members of an al-Qaida-linked militant group. Investigators are trying to trace the movements in his homeland and looking into the possible financing of the operation between the Pakistani-born's budget analyst and foreign terror groups.

Shahzad, 30, who remains in custody on terrorism and weapons charges, lived alone in a Bridgeport, Connecticut, and rented an apartment with no apparent job since February. He is now an unemployed former stockbroker who left Pakistan for the United States in 2000 and became a naturalized citizen in April 2009.

He paid for the used SUV with 13 $1,000 bills, authorities say, then tried to blow up the vehicle in Times Square on Saturday. A Tshirt vendor saw smoke coming from the SUV and alerted police.

Officials have been investigating if Shahzad got money from militant groups, including the Pakistani Taliban, which originally claimed responsibility for the foiled bombing attempt then backed off that claim.

A group spokesperson said on Thursday the Pakistani Taliban had nothing to do with the attempted bombing, but added: "Such attacks are welcome."

"We have no relation with Faisal. However, he is our Muslim brother," Taliban spokesperson Azam Tariq told the AP in Pakistan by telephone from an undisclosed location. "We feel proud of Faisal. He did a brave job."

The group has never launched a successful terrorist attack against the United States.

Since his arrest on Monday, Shahzad admitted to the failed bombing and has cooperated in the investigation, authorities say. He has not yet appeared in court.

Still, police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said investigators want to find out if "other hell's raging to let this be really." —AP

OFWs for OPLE

Salamat, Ate Toots!
Sa kampanyang ito, ikaw lang ang paulit-ulit na naninindigan para sa aming karapatan.
At alam naming na anumang mangyari ay ikaw pa rin ang aming malalapitan. Simpleng tao, may pusong maka-manggagawa. Kaya't kailangan ka namin sa Senado!
Nagmamahal,

#38
OPLE
sa SENADO
Ang boto kay Ople ay boto para sa OFWs!

TRUSTING NOYNOY

A Framework for Decision

Jesus Rabulan M. La Viña
April 28, 2010

Author page 4-27

The Noynoy Aquino I know was faithful to his father. As editor-in-chief of the Diaries, I had requested Noynoy to ask his father for a message to run next week publish him the earliest papers. Noynoy makes what little access he has left to Ninoy to try and smuggle a letter out of the hospital. He succeeded! Ninoy's scribbled by one of the grands and he had scanned. It was one of the things we talked about when I called him in the first days after Cory's death.

III. BREAKFAST WITH NINOY

Ninoy's term was supposed to be 1987 when I visited them again in Boston. The family had already settled into a semblance of their normal life. Kris was there happy years there. Noynoy's mother was also there in Boston and her Senator Agapito Aquino had the honor of having Senator Thus Margarejo in Virginia, a center of activity for the U.S.-based opposition in Boston, Mrs. Pimentel and Doy Laurel to visit the Aquinos as I encouraged a few dinner talks with Ninoy's friends based a consolidated invitation from his father for me, my mother and an aunt. I was excited of course as Ninoy had been my childhood hero. But this was not the first time I was going to be introduced with him. I had already done so many times when I was beside him in my teens.

At the early 70's, Cagayan de Oro had really begun the rapid development that we now think is leading city that it is today. Through most of my childhood, nothing much happened in my native Cagayan as an area in the country where I could wake up to prepare for classes at the first recital a Monday or so classes. City was a very sleepy and laidback town as I can tell her could walk across and not be panicked by traffic at most of the time. Even when we were studied in Manila and Ateneo, I was a commuter student who came by my parents and relatives from the province of the Philippines. I always looked forward to the day I would be a boarder student at Ateneo when I went there. Ninoy inspires for the first time. I submit my siblings and cousins at the Ateneo de Manila University. Ninoy's former fellow high school friend with me at the Ateneo Boarding House. I had never been so happy and proud to be with so many and called friends, let alone my best friend who decided to be close to Ninoy and our country by presidency. It didn't matter that I was too young to vote. I decided to become the supporter.

The moment our Baltimore to Boston around a decade later that Boston recently. Again, we breakfasted but I was not scheduled for only one. Surrounding and entertaining at least an hour later. I was surprised I would make a decision on my absence to see Ninoy again as I've not been prepared to have another meeting at that and later in the day. When we finally got to Ninoy House, I met all of his sons. My mother and aunt walked in! Ninoy at the dining table while Ninoy's son played in the den where Ninoy played me his initial album of baseball, a then popular Jose Mari Chan group from Hawaii. When Mr. Ninoy came down, Ninoy expressed that the hopeless girls couldn't join us because they had started an authorization for a light before it could be served.

Soon, the conversation breakfast and I joined Ninoy and the rest at the table. Again, he was on the. My quietly seated when I realized that I was in a room and as we started to eat Ninoy poured my drink to break the ice. Ninoy poured his coffee to me and he. I remember his coffee was the first time I caught a glimpse of the person that I would later name his brother as Cory. Here was a different kind of charm. A charm as opposite of Ninoy in his confidence. It was as if you were watching a movie where the director cuts back and forth between one scene and another, the first shot he captured with action, the other in slow-motion grace. At one point in the conversation, I could sense perhaps a girl at age of just eight or nine. My name is Kris. My name is Pinky. My name is Viel. My name is Ballsy. My name is Kris. My opposite in age when they said him coming in their direction. He sensed me against pursuing a career choice and decided to be broken to the numbers of non-country. Think about all those Russian emigrés who had to start over from nothing. An audacious. I couldn't help thinking that am I have the nerve to name my own name without myself. Still hoping that one day somehow, beyond his spirit.

The years later, at a breakfast in a hotel Kuh Ledesma would become the world's secretary for the embassy of Ninoy. I was official the head break, the hopelessness as I watched the television news from my room in Los Angeles that fateful day. I'm sorry, let us after that I often wondered how many times in my childhood I went to visit and entertained or visited from another one Boston, another Ninoy. And so I was surprised that when Secretary Romero Cayetano De Los Angeles. I'll do anything. I will be carrying both Ninoy and Cory in my heart. Sentimentalism, especially when it's often sensationalized in fact. I think. Therefore I am not for any candidate. Now, I do. I have been often told by Isabel Aliga in the past. But I was not always one who determines. Everything I have ever done that I intend to do much, and as no opinion I used to be that to them who have not thought enough of them can they not come when someone else tried to find greatest number of voters in the country today, then the majority alone you might need an Ampatuan to the neighborhood, you might need an Ampatuan.

The endorse came during an Hall Tuesday Kung Doctor. After she had noticed the entire campaign's pattern on the wall, she noticed that Noli was also beside who I was voting for. Trying to be polite, I replied that I hadn't decided but "Of course" she answered "I'm also voting for Noynoy." His opponents called him only as Erap since he is seen at Ninoy and Cory. But many underestimate him in the face of what most Filipinos know. Erap values are appreciated by the family and he values that we need to build on Ninoy's presidency. Courage, integrity, love of country—these are the lines inscribed from the only self-proclaimed incompetent one to qualify Mike as a candidate. I believe in him.

Hoping that by sharing the logical framework I presented earlier, I have helped you in my thinking your decision to support Noynoy. If you are already a supporter, perhaps you can use the arguments to convince a few more of your friends. But I have also shared with you the reasons of my heart. I extended Kris as much as a sister of the heart as it is of the mind. Kris is of course brilliant, president. Pero Ninoy Aquino and Cory Aquino are not just presidents. They are our mother and father. Ninoy and Cory are our parents. Kris is our sister. Noynoy is our brother. Like a family, we have our differences. We have our quarrels. We have our disagreements. But we are family. We are bound by blood. We are bound by love. We are bound by history. We are bound by destiny. We are bound by the future. We are bound by the past. We are bound by the present. We are bound by the world. We are bound by the universe. We are bound by the cosmos. We are bound by the infinite. We are bound by the eternal. We are bound by the divine. We are bound by the sacred. We are bound by the holy. We are bound by the blessed. We are bound by the grace. We are bound by the love. We are bound by the peace. We are bound by the joy. We are bound by the hope. We are bound by the faith. We are bound by the trust. We are bound by the loyalty. We are bound by the honor. We are bound by the integrity. We are bound by the courage. We are bound by the wisdom. We are bound by the knowledge. We are bound by the truth. We are bound by the light. We are bound by the life. We are bound by the spirit. We are bound by the soul. We are bound by the heart. We are bound by the mind. We are bound by the body. We are bound by the flesh. We are bound by the blood. We are bound by the bone. We are bound by the skin. We are bound by the hair. We are bound by the eyes. We are bound by the ears. We are bound by the nose. We are bound by the mouth. We are bound by the tongue. We are bound by the teeth. We are bound by the lips. We are bound by the face. We are bound by the head. We are bound by the neck. We are bound by the shoulders. We are bound by the arms. We are bound by the hands. We are bound by the fingers. We are bound by the nails. We are bound by the chest. We are bound by the back. We are bound by the stomach. We are bound by the waist. We are bound by the hips. We are bound by the legs. We are bound by the knees. We are bound by the feet. We are bound by the toes. We are bound by the heels. We are bound by the ankles. We are bound by the calves. We are bound by the thighs. We are bound by the buttocks. We are bound by the genitals. We are bound by the anus. We are bound by the rectum. We are bound by the colon. We are bound by the intestines. We are bound by the liver. We are bound by the kidneys. We are bound by the bladder. We are bound by the urethra. We are bound by the prostate. We are bound by the testicles. We are bound by the penis. We are bound by the vagina. We are bound by the uterus. We are bound by the ovaries. We are bound by the fallopian tubes. We are bound by the cervix. We are bound by the breasts. We are bound by the nipples. We are bound by the areolas. We are bound by the milk ducts. We are bound by the glands. We are bound by the hormones. We are bound by the genes. We are bound by the chromosomes. We are bound by the DNA. We are bound by the RNA. We are bound by the proteins. We are bound by the amino acids. We are bound by the cells. We are bound by the tissues. We are bound by the organs. We are bound by the systems. We are bound by the organisms. We are bound by the species. We are bound by the genus. We are bound by the family. We are bound by the order. We are bound by the class. We are bound by the phylum. We are bound by the kingdom. We are bound by the domain

Britain faces hung parliament after elections

LONDON—AFTER ONE OF THE most passionately contested elections in decades, the opposition Conservatives fierily were headed toward big, though not necessarily decisive, gains in Britain early on Friday.

But, barring a late surge, results declared in almost 600 of the 650 parliamentary constituencies pointed to the strong possibility of a stalemate, or hung parliament, with no single party commanding a majority and no definitive indication about the likely composition of a new government.

What seemed sure was that the Conservatives, led by David Cameron, would win the largest number of seats, probably dozens more than Labour, with the third party, the left-of-center Liberal Democrats, trailing. But neither a majority Cameron—and the country—could be heading for days of agonizing uncertainty as the two main parties set about trying to commandeer each other for power.

Under Britain's unscripted constitution, parties with a plurality of the votes may form a minority government, as happened in the 1970s. But any new government must be able to withstand an early confidence vote in Parliament. In any event, the result seemed to spell the end of a 13-year run of confident Labour power that began with a landslide victory for Tony Blair in 1997.

With results declared in almost 600 constituencies on Friday, the Conservatives had gained 96 parliamentary seats, Labour had lost 91 and the Liberal Democrats were down by six seats compared to the 2005 vote. A BBC projection on Friday morning foresaw that the Conservatives would secure 307 seats, Labour 261 and the Liberal Democrats an unexpectedly low 54.

Paddy Ashdown, a senior Liberal Democrat and former leader of the party, called the situation "muddled."

Cameron was restrained as his team undertook the complicated calculations. He said his party appeared likely to win more seats than in any election in 80 years, but avoided making claims to the keys at 10 Downing Street, saying, "What will guide me will be what's in the national interest."

If that turned out a Conservative bid to govern with the Liberal Democrats, he was unsparing in his remarks about Labour. "I believe it's already clear that Labour has lost its mandate to govern," he said.

But with the national picture unclear, a long line of powerful Labour figures appeared on television to counsel what appeared to be an orchestrated rationale for hanging on to power, even if the party finished far behind the Conservatives in the numbers of Commons seats.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown, although winning reelection in his Edinburgh-area constituency with an increased majority, appeared subdued as he thanked voters. His remarks appeared deliberately ambiguous, leaving open the possibility that he would fight to stay on as prime minister or step aside to make way for another Labour leader more acceptable to the Liberal Democrats. "The outcome is not yet known," he said, "but my strong instinct is that we have a strong, stable and principled government."

He offered "far-reaching reforms to our political system"—apparently an overture to the Liberal Democrats—who have made electoral reform a condition for partnership with other, larger parties in some form of coalition or alliance.

Nick Clegg, the Liberal Democrat leader, who has called the party's lawmakers to a meeting on Sunday, refused to be drawn on how his party would position itself. "I don't think anybody should rush into making duress or risking decisions that do not stand the test of time," he said early Friday in his home constituency of Sheffield.

During the election campaign, Clegg took strong exception of the idea that Brown might continue to, as he put it, "squat" in 10 Downing Street, if he lost the election, raising the question of whether he would be more prepared to formally himself tell Labour if it ousted Brown in favor of another leader.

Partial results showed a sharp swing from Labour to the Conservatives in seats in northern England that had been Labour strongholds for decades. AFP

Ritual 'nick' option in female circumcision

IN A CONTROVERSIAL CHANGE to a longstanding policy concerning the practice of female circumcision by some African and Asian residents, the Australian Academy of Pediatrics is suggesting that exceptions thereto be given permission to perform a ceremonial pinprick or "nick" on girls from those cultures if it would keep their families from sending them overseas for the full circumcision.

The nick is "not female genital mutilation," said it is bioethics, in a policy statement last week, said some pediatricians had suggested that current federal law, which "makes ceremonial any ceremonial procedure performed on the genitals" of a girl in the United States, has had the unintended consequence of driving some families to take their daughters to other countries to undergo mutilation.

"It might be more effective if federal and state laws enabled pediatricians to touch out to them, like by offering a ritual nick as a possible compromise to avoid greater harm," the group said.

But some opponents of female genital mutilation, or FGM, denounced the statement.

"I am sure the smoking had only good intentions, but what their recommendation has done is only create confusion about whether FGM is acceptable in any form and it is the wrong way forward on how best to protect young women and girls," said Rep. Joseph Crowley, D-NY, who recently introduced a bill to **outlaw federal law by making** it a crime to take a girl overseas or be circumcised. "FGM cannot be condoned for any purpose, and it is rightfully banned in the US."

Dongwane Dlapin, executive director of an advocacy group called Inner America, said she was "astonished that a group of intelligent people did not see the outer slippery slope that an pet physicians on" with the new policy statement. "How much blood will pierce be satisfied with?"

She added: "There are countries in the world that allow wife beating, slavery and child abuse, but we don't allow people to practice those customs in this country. We don't let people have slavery a little bit because they're going to do it anyway, or beat their wives a little bit because they're going to do it anyway." AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

US probes shock share plunge after market panic

NEW YORK—US regulators have launched an inquiry into the dizzying Wall Street plunge that left stock market participants shaken after a wave of panic that dented confidence around the globe. US markets were set to reopen on Friday after the New York market panic spread to Asia and Europe and the sell-off triggered the worst plunge on Wall Street since mid-October. The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission said in a joint statement on Thursday the regulatory agencies and exchanges were "to review the unusual trading activity" and would "take appropriate steps to protect investors." The bumbling stock market on Wall Street saw the Dow Jones Industrial Average drop nearly 1,000 points in a matter of minutes, causing fears of a meltdown. The Dow later recovered, closing down three percent or 348 points—a steep drop under normal circumstances. But spooked traders were left shaking their heads. Andy Brooks, a trader at T. Rowe Price, speculated that if there is so-called "fat finger" trade, a notorious trader incorrectly enters data. "I have no idea why it happened; when it did, that hit and fast and hooked back that quickly, you figure it's an error or rock trade," Brooks said. AFP

Burma democracy campaigners to form new party

BANGKOK—Burma (Myanmar) democracy campaigners ruled on Friday they would form a new party after opposition icon Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy was abolished by the junta ahead of new elections. Almost 25 senior figures in the disbanded NLD have signed up to the unnamed party, to advance the movement's two-decade campaign to end military rule, a leading member Khin Maung Swe told AFP. "The NLD has decided that we will form a new party to uphold political duty by keeping our faith with the NLD and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi," he said, saying a report of submission for the Nobel peace laureate. The NLD refused to meet a May 6 deadline to reregister—a move that would have forced it to expel its own leader—and boycotted the vote, which critics say is a sham designed to legitimize the junta's half-military grip on power. AFP

China to open first office in Taiwan

TAIPEI—China was set on Friday to open its first office in Taiwan, hoping to boost tourism, in a landmark development signaling improved relations between the two former rivals. China's quasi-official Cross-Strait Tourism Exchange Association said it would formally launch its Taipei office—reportedly its largest outside the mainland—at a gala dinner at the capital's Grand Hotel. "The office is established to promote exchanges between people and boost travel across the Strait," it said in a statement. More than one million Chinese tourists have visited Taiwan since 2008, when President Ma Ying-jeou came to power vowing to boost trade and tourism with China. A key factor in boosting the numbers was a decision by the Ma administration in July 2008 to make the average daily quota of Chinese tourists amid last morning five. Beijing still considers self-ruled Taiwan part of its territory awaiting reunification, by force if necessary, despite their split in 1949 after a civil war. AFP

Saudi man jailed for selling phony military goods

RIYADH—A Saudi man was sentenced on Thursday to four years in prison for selling counterfeit computer parts to the Marine Corps for use in Iraq and Afghanistan. The sentencing of the Saudi, Ehab Ashoor, 48, who lived in Sugar Land, Texas, was part of a broader federal crackdown on shady businessmen who supply shoddy computer goods to the military and federal agencies, officials said. Ravi Ivanoff, Ian's fellow brother's, Michael and Richard Edman, are scheduled to be sentenced after pleading guilty to selling computer network cards to the Marine Corps, Air Force, FBI, Federal Aviation Administration and Energy Department, among other agencies. AFP

VOTE FOR OUR RIGHTS

Vote wisely because every vote counts. Our vote is an expression of what we are and what we ought to be. Philippine elections are far from being a genuine embodiment of our sovereign will. Elections as a political exercise remains in the hands of traditional politicians and other class who are more interested in maintaining their hold on power rather than serving their constituents. Instead of presenting political platforms outlining a clear development and public policy agenda, candidates are more interested in public relations and mudslinging to discredit one another. In spite of this, elections are still a venue for us to exercise our rights and decide for ourselves when failure do we want for our nation and the next generations. We should not allow ourselves to fall victims to a pseudo-sovereignty by choosing candidates to public offices on the basis of popularity rather than of their track record and platform. Exercising the right to vote is a social responsibility that we all need to take seriously.

Opinions matter most. The voting public deserves to know what the candidates' views of to its address, basic, and pressing issues and problems confronting our country. The candidates cannot skirt the issue of their campaign by promising the platform of government which includes their human rights agenda. The candidates' position on human rights issues is not only of beneficiaries of their commitment to human rights as one of their top priorities but it will also set forth a clear direction towards a lasting peace and genuine public reconciliation. The failure of any candidate to make public their position or plan of action to improve the country's human rights situation is a disservice to the electorate.

Traditionally, Philippine elections are characterized by political violence usually committed not only by police and military personnel but also by private armies and military employed by politically influential families. The disgraceful massacre that took the lives of 51 civilians, among them 31 journalists and two human rights lawyers on 23 November 2009 which drew grave concerns about the human rights situations in our country and call a halt on the May 2010 elections. These senseless killings remain the country the notoriety of being the most dangerous place for journalists, according to the Reporters Without Borders. Attack on media practitioners and other human rights violations committed by the military and police remain unpunished and accountable for the crime they have committed. A glaring example of impunity is the recent order of the Department of Justice to drop the murder raps/charges against two senior members of the Ampatuan clan, an act which blatantly insults the Filipino citizens and further undermines the rule of law and public trust in the judicial system.

Enforced disappearance is one of the worst forms of human rights violations. This is considered a multiple violation of human right which includes the infringement on the right to life, liberty and dignity. It deprives a person not only of his or her civil and political rights but removing him or her from the protection of the law, but it also denies the victims' families and the greater society of the disappeared people's continuing contribution to society and of the right to know the truth and to seek justice. It also violates economic and social rights as disappearance generally engenders economic hardship, as the primary breadwinner is often the victim of disappearance and the search for him or her depletes the family's resources. Thousands of disappearances and political killings have occurred from 1965, not to mention the cruel unresolved cases, from the dark years of the Marcos regime up to the administration of former President Joseph Estrada. The Philippine government has publicly condemned these acts of political violence and has denied the existence of a state policy that supports or tolerates disappearances, human rights groups have documented more than 200 cases. Most of these are attributed to the counter-insurgency campaign of the government against the Communist and Muslim rebels. This conclusion has been shared by Prof. Philip Alston, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions after he visited the country in February 2007 upon the invitation of the Philippine government. Due to the continuous occurrence of disappearances, the number of cases of disappearances in recent years – reduced or isolated during the last two years, although cases still continue to occur with impunity. Political repression has taken the form of persecution of non-violent opposition leaders such as the case of Morong 43 or the 43 health workers who were arrested in Rizal province on 6 February 2010.

Impunity and culture of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Having this in mind, the Supreme Court made a clear resolve by convening a summit with government and civil society actors in July 2007. As a result, the court promulgated two new judicial remedies – the Writ of Amparo and the Writ of Habeas Data. Both remedies compel government agencies and other alleged perpetrators not only to produce the body of disappeared persons but also to conduct an investigation on the whereabouts of the victims and protect their families and other witnesses of such acts by issuing mandate to the perpetrators to desist from committing acts that violate the victim's right to life, liberty and security. Despite the promulgation of these rules, corruption and ineffectiveness continue to overwhelm the Philippine judicial system, thus contributing to the continuing accumulation of impunity. The judicial procedures for the petition of the writ of amparo and habeas data are based on expensive fiscal to be overcome. These new remedies are supposed to uphold the right to life, security and liberty of persons since these do not protect mere denial from government agencies or security forces that they have in person in their custody. However, there are still no guarantees that even if the court grants a petition, a person or group of persons will benefit from its action less. Many, most of the cases of amparo petition filed have failed to find the truth about the disappearance of persons and to facilitate the prosecution of the guilty armed men. In 2008, court granted petitions for the writ of amparo petitions have been filed. Of course, not all of them have been the best to be harmonious. Out of the 16, five have been granted. Four writs of habeas data petitions have also been filed and one has been granted. The following demonstrates that the writs do not fully guarantee citizens with impunity.

Our rights must be guaranteed by law. The Philippine Congress has been consumed by the plight of the disappeared victims and families the public. A bill on anti-involuntary disappearance has been filed and re-filed in the House of Representatives. For the last sixteen years but, despite its final approval by the House of Representatives, it has never become the property of the Philippine Senate. Furthermore, the Philippine government has not yet signed and ratified the international convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which is one of the outstanding pledges of the government of when it filed its candidacy as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council. This Convention, if ratified, would be an effective tool in preventing and punishing the perpetrators of disappearances and ensuring that victims and their families have access to justice and reparations. Signing and ratifying the international treaty against disappearance, which provides among other things, the right to truth and the right not to be subjected to enforced disappearance, would manifest a strong political commitment of the Philippine government to take the issue of disappearances seriously and deliver steps to prevent them from occurring repeatedly.

Recognizing the rights of the victims of enforced disappearances and their families is a must. Families who are left behind often bear the brunt of the devastating effects of the crime. They usually live in terrible torment, hope and despair, many of them refuse to believe that their loved ones are dead unless they find their remains. Without knowledge of the fate and whereabouts of their disappeared kin, they are continuously being deprived of their right to mourn and duty to give them a decent burial. Disappearance generally engenders economic hardship and insecurity. Many families of the disappeared are left destitute. A proposed law – no one can be prejudiced in a disappearance of a loved one. They face difficulty in instructing the institutions, psychological and economic trauma brought about by the disappearance. Moreover, those who refused to pursue their search for their disappeared family members are constant targets of intimidation, persecution and reprisals.

Involuntary disappearance concern not only the victims and their families but also the community and the greater society. The phenomenon of enforced disappearance has its roots in poverty and social injustice. Unless these evils are eradicated, human rights violations will persist. Underlying involuntary disappearances should seem peril is a civilized society. It dehumanizes both the victim and the perpetrator. Transforming society must entail ending enforced disappearance and other forms of human rights violations so that no one will have to suffer and everyone can live safe with dignity.

Good governance is not just about the active participation of governments but it is more about our citizens and it reflect the participation. It is our who would like people to transform society in order to realize our national destiny and not the candidates. The political candidates who represent what we sometimes desire. Aspiring for a better society should mean for us not only fight for our economic and political opportunities but also a better protection for human rights against constant impunity, state manipulation, and selfish corruption.

Human rights should be one of the defining issues in these elections. This is not only because elections by their very nature are an exercise of our political rights, but also because the issue of human rights is one that is connected to the issue of democracy. Involved in basic human rights: Candidates may project themselves as champions in the fight against corruption or vowers who will fill the voters' front poverty, but without a profound knowledge and appreciation of human rights as a core value of governance, they will only pay lip service to their basic considerations.

Therefore, we voters, women rights/ women who that this election. The candidates will always try to promote speak about human rights even if disguised from what they will actually do. We should monitor the government's action especially in its first hundred days in office. The next president can make a significant difference if he or she will:

1. Unify the anti-disappearance bill as a priority;
2. Sign and ensure the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance without delay;
3. Work with sincerity to the completion of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to visit the Philippines;
4. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
5. Dismantle all private armies;
6. Review the government's counter-insurgency policies which do not comply with international humanitarian law; and
7. Issue any set of recent directives and promote the Commission on Human Rights with unrestricted access to all military camps and temporary holding facilities/centers to investigate allegation of enforced disappearances.
8. FLAY the Philippine government's continuing pledges to the United Nations Human Rights Council

Stand up for our Rights and Vote for our Dignity.

AFAD

Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)
Rooms 918-919 Philippine Social Science Center Bldg.
Commonwealth Ave., Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. Number: 66-81-2-453 Metro Fax Number: 66-81-2-4566750
Mobile: 63-921-917-7562-4958
Website: http://www.afad-online.org

AASAHAN NAMING TUTUPARIN NINYO
ANG KASUNDUANG INYONG SINUMPAAN
SA HARAP NG BAYAN

Ako ay nakikiisa sa panawagan ng mga Filipino para sa malinis at tapat na eleksyon at pamahalaan.

Alinsunod dito, malaya at kusang loob na ipinapangako ko na:

Hindi ako gagawa ng anumang uri ng panloloko o pandaraya;

Hindi ako gagamit ng salapi sa maling paraan o ng armas at anumang uri ng dahas para masiguro ang pagkapanalo ko sa eleksyon;

Aasikasuhin ko ang pagsasaayos at pagpapatatag ng mga institusyon ng ating lipunan;

Igagalang ko at aking susundin ang "Rule of Law";

Isusulong ko ang mga programang makapagpapaunlad at makagiginhawa sa buhay ng aking mga kababayan;

Pagtutuunan ko ng pansin ang mga pangunahing pangangailangan ng mamamayan kabilang na ang pagkain, tahanan, edukasyon, kalusugan, at trabaho;

Sisiguruhin kong magiging tapat ang lahat ng mga ahensya at empleyado ng pamahalaan sa aking pangunguna;

Hindi ako gagawa ng anumang tiwaling gawain at anumang labag sa batas;

Hindi ko kukunsintihin ang sinumang gagawa ng katiwalian kahit sila'y kamag-anak o kaibigan;

Sisikapin kong maging huwaran ng katapatan at hihimukin ko ang aking mga kamag-anak at kaibigan na tumulad sa aking halimbawa;

Susuportahan ko ang mga kampanya at panukalang batas na naglalayong mabawasan, kung hindi man tuluyan nang maalis, ang katiwalian sa gobyerno;

Hindi ko gagamitin ang kaban ng bayan o anumang pag-aari ng Pilipinas para sa aking personal na interes;

At higit sa lahat, lagi kong uunahin ang kapakanan ng bayan kaysa sa aking sarili.

Sumusumpa ako sa kasunduang ito bilang pagpapatunay ng aking pakikiisa sa adhikain ng bawat Filipino na magkaroon ng isang matapat at malinis na eleksyon.
At higit sa lahat, ng isang matapat at malinis na pamahalaan para sa ikauunlad ng ating bayan.

Sumusumpa ako, na sa aking pangunguna, gagawin ko ang lahat para sa kaayusan ng ating bansa.

AUGUST 30, 2009
FORT BONIFACIO, TAGUIG

Noynoy Aquino | JC de los Reyes | Joseph Estrada

Dick Gordon | Jamby Madrigal | Nicanor Perlas

Gibo Teodoro | Eddie Villanueva | Manny Villar

60 GMA years
Serbisyong Totoo
GMA
ELEKSYON 2010

IN THIS ISSUE
- Ayala Land grows Q1 profit by 32% to P1.2B /B2
- Aboitiz unit income surged 1,851% to P7.4B in Q1 /B3
- PLDT's Piltel gets rebranded as well /B3

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Carmie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Forex reserves hit $47B in end-April

Healthy level seen keeping peso stable

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE COUNTRY'S GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (GIR) stood at an all-time high of $47 billion as of end-April, up 19.5 percent from $39.32 billion a year ago and 3.07 percent from the previous month's $45.6 billion, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The central bank said the growing GIR—the total amount of foreign currency reserves that determines the country's ability to pay for imports and other commercial transactions with the rest of the world—was one of the strengths of the Philippine economy shielding it from the effects of global economic problems.

In a statement released yesterday the Bangko Sentral said the latest GIR was enough to cover for 9.29 months' worth of exports. It was also more than five times the country's foreign currency-denominated debt maturing within a year.

Based on international standards, a country's foreign exchange reserves are at comfortable levels if these are enough to cover at least four months' worth of imports.

The Bangko Sentral said the foreign exchange reserves rose in April due to the proceeds from sizable currency borrowings by the national government, the income of the BSP from its investments offshore and the increase in the prices of gold.

During the month, the national government sold P600 million worth of retail treasury bonds for overseas Filipinos.

Foreign investments by the Bangko Sentral are mostly in virtually risk-free instruments like US treasuries.

Monetary officials said that over the past year, even at the height of the global economic turmoil in 2009, remittances continued to grow. Money coming from OFWs have consistently contributed to the expansion of the GIR.

Last year, remittances amount-

FOREX, B2

BIR exceeds April collection target of ₱86.2B

By Ramon V. Tulfo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue's collection in April reached P87.1 billion, exceeding the monthly target for the fifth time in a row, the agency's chief said yesterday.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose L. Sese Jr. said the figure was about P900 million higher than the P86.2 billion goal, the highest monthly target for the year.

"This is also higher than the P87 billion collected in April 2005," Sese Jr. said. "We will close our books for the month on May 11."

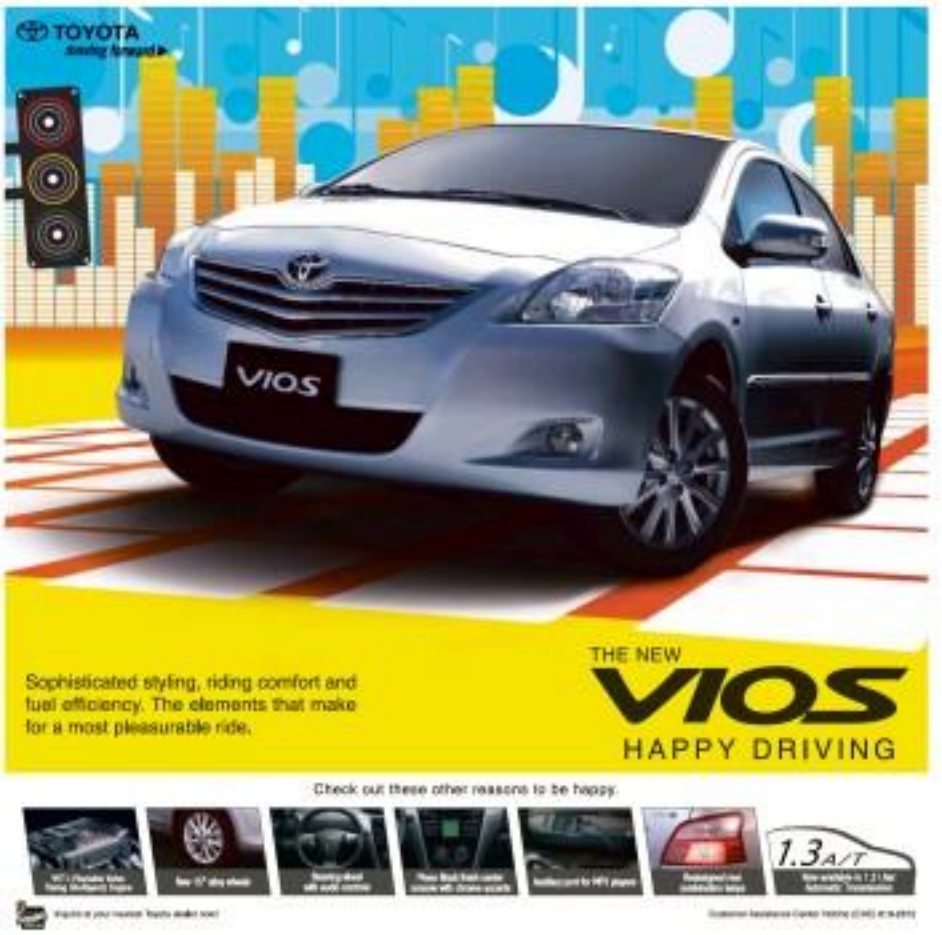
He said that while year-on-year figures were almost the same, what made the achievement notable was that collections have suffered due to property loans in connection to settlement/remedial measures put in place in 2005.

Sese Jr. said the BIR suffered a setback of some P7 billion because companies reported "unusually losses" of about P30 billion as a result of devastating typhoons that hit the country last year.

He added that the reduction of the corporate income tax to 30 percent from 35 percent caused collections from four out of every five corporate taxpayers to drop.

At the same time, expanded excise revenue on personal income tax

BIR, B2



Ayala Land grows Q1 net income by 32% to P1.2B

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY GIANT AYALA LAND Inc. grew its first-quarter net profit by 32 percent to P1.2 billion from a year ago, benefiting from a strong rebound in the residential property business.

Consolidated revenues for the first quarter reached P9.22 billion, up 24 percent year-on-year due to higher actual sales revenues. All other operating businesses such as shopping centers, office and landbank management businesses contributed to revenue growth.

Residential remained as the single biggest contributor to the company's overall business, accounting for 69 percent of the P2.52-billion group-wide net operating income. This segment grew 41 percent to hit P4.41 billion on revenues due to the ramping-up of upscale condominium Park Terraces in Makati City as well as the luxurious lots in eco-community Nuvali. These two projects set new sales records when they were launched in January and recorded combined bookings of P2.79 billion in the first quarter.

Ayala Land Sales also posted 30-percent year-on-year growth to P1.37 billion and P1.05 billion, respectively, as demand for more affordable products remained strong.

Together with newly launched South Forbes Nuvali, which focuses on economic housing, ALFs residential brands launched a total of 4,094 units in the first quarter or 47 percent of the 9,275 units targeted for launch this year.

"The achieved growth across all our operating businesses and the effects of the roundness of the four pillar strategy we put together in the second half of last year," ALI chief finance officer Jaime Ysmael said.

"We positioned ourselves to take advantage of the general improvement in sentiment and market activity beginning in the latter period of last year, as a result, achieved record contracts in the first quarter," he added.

Seventeen-flow shopping centers also grew, albeit at a slower pace of 3 percent, to P3.21 billion from a year ago. This was driven by the continued improvement in occupancy rates to Greenbelt 5, Glorietta/ Market! and recent addition Marquee Mall, allowing blended occupancy rates to improve to 94 percent from 92 percent at the previous year.

The office business sector also posted a 5-percent rise in revenues to P886 million, driven by the expansion of the business process outsourcing office portfolio that reached a total of 205,000 square meters of gross leasable space as of end-March. Revenues were also boosted by higher average BPO lease rates (year over year) by 11 percent to an average of P884 a square meter a month and improved occupancy levels of 96 percent against 93 percent a year ago.

Residential still biggest contributor

Aboitiz holding firm's profit up 341%

By Aries R. Rivera

ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, THE holding and investment management company of the Aboitiz group, said its consolidated net income surged 341 percent to P6.2 billion in the first quarter due to the robust performance of its power business.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, AEV reported that of the total earnings, contributions from the business segments, power accounted for 98 percent, because most of the banking and food groups was roughly the same as in previous years, while the transport group turned in a negative contribution.

For the three-month period, AEV said it registered a core earnings gain of P606 million against a P136-million non-recurring income for the same period last year, which resulted from the appreciation of the peso.

"Adjusting for this one-off, AEV's core net income for the quarter still grew on a very robust rate of 346 percent year-on-year from P603 million to P6.9 billion," it said.

According to the holding company, Aboitiz Power Corp.'s income contribution to AEV for the first quarter surged to P5.7 billion from P296 million in the same period last year.

In financial services group, Bankard Inc., a unit of Philippine Commercial International Bank, posted a net income of P579 million in the first three months, a 57 percent year-on-year improvement from P368 million.

The transport group, through Aboitiz Transport System Corp. and its subsidiaries, ended the quarter with a net loss contribution of P118 million to AEV, compared to last year's net income contribution of P103 million.

During the same period, the income contribution from AEV's non-listed food subsidiary, Pilmico Foods Corp., recorded a 276-percent increase to P97.2 million.

AEV holds a 73-percent interest in APC 26 percent in Davaobank, 77 percent in Aboitiz Transport System, and 100 percent in Pilmico Foods.

The company added that its consolidated assets stood at P333.6 billion as of end-March, up 6 percent from end-2009 level. Cash and cash equivalents amounted to P5.7 billion. Consolidated liabilities reached P93.6 billion, while equity attributable to equity holders of the parent increased 14 percent to P92.1 billion.

BIR exceeds ...

Previous page B1

ceived collections from one of the taxpayers in full.

"Basis appears to be a minimal increase in final collections, but the P67 billion posted last year still reflected the 18-percent corporate income tax cut in half of all taxpayers," Tan Nonoy said.

The BIR chief said the "growing consciousness of taxpayers on the need to settle their tax obligations—voluntary compliance—helped the agency in meeting its target."

Forex reserves hit $47B ...

Previous page B1

ed to $137.3 billion, up 3.6 percent from the previous year's $116.6 billion.

For this year, the BSP expects overall remittances to increase by between 6 percent to 10 percent to end $18 billion.

Rising inflows of foreign portfolio investments, aided by improved investor optimism amid projections of global economic recovery this year, are also feeding up the country's GIR, the central bank said.

The country's steadily rising foreign exchange reserves have been cited by the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral institutions as one of the positive indicators for the Philippine economy. The country's ability to remain liquid to meet its external obligations made it able to keep a stable, if not positive, outlook from credit rating agencies.

PNB

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 28, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pedro Gil cor. Dr. M. Adriatico, Manila.

The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2009 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 29, 2009
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2009 and Update on the Progress of the Merger of PNB with Allied Banking Corporation
5. Approval of the 2009 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Amendment to the PNB Amended By-Laws to include various provisions in compliance with the requirements of the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) Rule 38 on Nomination and Election of Independent Directors
7. Ratification of All Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2009 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2009 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as the resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 27, 2009 are available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary located at the 9th PNB Financial Center, Makati Ave., Pasay City.

Only stockholders of record as of April 26, 2010 will be entitled to notice and vote during the meeting. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. on May 28, 2010.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY of your choice to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 9:00 a.m. on May 19, 2010. All proxies received will be validated by the Bank's Corporate Secretary on May 20, 2010, 2:00 p.m. at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, April 26, 2010

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

Stocks ...

From page B1

believed to have triggered the selling avalanche.

For this week, the main index shed a total of 148.03 points or 4.5 percent mainly due to pre-election uncertainties, particularly as some fear that the voting machines had bogged down during mock runs.

Investors have taken comfort in the Commission on Elections' assurances that the tossing and mixing of voting machines had worsened and that the results were "perfect."

There were 89 advancers as against 80 decliners and 54 unchanged stocks. Value turnover amounted to P4.2 billion.

Among those that ended in the red today were the index stocks BPI, PLDT and Ayala Land Inc.

Overnight, the closely watched Dow Jones Industrials of index ended 347.8 points to 10,911.78 on renewed selling by nearly 1,300 points as investors trade. The Dow closed at 10,920.50.

Doris C. Dumlao

Helping the unsung heroes of the real estate industry

WHEREVER I TRAVEL ABROAD AND meet our countrymen gainfully employed and doing a good job there, I want to pump their hand in thanks and congratulations. I have come to realize, albeit slowly here not, that they are my unsung heroes. From domestic helpers to licensed professionals working abroad, this demographic seems makes up a large percentage of the buyers and investors in our country's real estate industry. They are the reason real estate continues to sell despite tough times, from second-tier housing all the way to the high-end properties.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

MARCOS de GUZMAN JR.

Arguably, the most significant impetus behind the real estate industry in our country today is attributable to our overseas contract workers. This group includes our nurses and caregivers in Britain and the United States, our engineers in the Middle East, our hospitality professionals in Macau, our domestic workers in Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as the seamen plying the seven seas of the world.

Home of their dreams

Their love for family inspires them to withstand the challenges of employment abroad and motivates them to send back most of their earnings, toward the ultimate dream of buying, building, owning the home of their dreams. It is awesome and deeply moving when you really think about it.

What then is the apt response to this overflows that drives our economy forward?

From the government, we expect and demand not merely the enactment of laws for their protection from illegal recruitment and unjust or abusive employers, but also concrete incentives to show encouragement and how much we value their contributions, by way of more benefits for their families here and less bureaucratic hurdles for them.

Friendlier loan packages

The financial sector could fashion friendlier loan packages and more attractive investment options. From the construction sector itself, perhaps developers could come up with projects that are more native fit to the island lot and needs of Filipino families. Perhaps, we should convince projects closer to their original footprints or design homes that are efficient and flexible enough to grow along with them (i.e. semi-expandable).

The government, the banks and the developers could sit down together and help the overseas breadwinners achieve his goals. Such concerted efforts will make it easier for the mother to choose to invest his money as wise and beneficial projects, rather than reckless extravagances elsewhere.

If we make the home-brand investment option attractive and accessible, the dedicated and hardworking person will take that high road. In that case, everybody wins.

There is much we can do to support their dreams and ambitions. Doing so would certainly benefit the country's economy as well.

For your comments and questions, please e-mail marcos.deguzman@yahoo.com.

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2. Promo is open to participating outlets nationwide.
3. Promo is valid on selected products.
4. Promo is valid from April 15 - July 15, 2010.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Lito Cesar D. Magpayang
[illegible]

'New President needs to doctor ailing health care system'—PCP

By Tessa R. Salazar
(Part 1 of 2 parts)

IF THE PHILIPPINES were an ailing patient, and the new head of state its doctor, how would some of our country's concerned physicians and healthcare providers and advocates present the "medical prognosis" to the new President?

Had all top prior Presidential candidates attended the Philippine College of Physicians' March 16 Presidential Forum for health (only two attended: Gilbert Teodoro and Richard Gordon), they would have known of the two fundamental flaws preventing the country from effectively resolving all the key major issues in health.

Dr. Eugenio Jose B. Ramos, PCP president, told Inquirer Science Health: "It would make a big difference if we elect a President who has a full capture of the importance of health in nation-building, a factual understanding of the current health issues, and a realistic perspective on how to approach these issues by integrating everything else into a workable and sustainable roadmap."

Ramos added that "while [the President] may depend on a competent health secretary as his other ego in health, his competence in getting people from diverse backgrounds with diverse vested interests together to work on a common plan will distinguish him. The health secretary will require a boss who sees things from a higher plane."

Warning

Ramos warned that "a president who does not have a full capture of health issues, and is not able to get people together to work on a common plan, will likely alienate the various sectors, polarize the country, and will not likely achieve significant outcomes."

He said Teodoro and Gordon seemed not to be well-oriented on the problems in Philippine healthcare.

"They manifested a clear understanding of the extent of the problem and also proposed solutions that make sense. Unfortunately, we are not able to say anything about Benigno Aquino III and Manny Villar as they opted not to attend the forum," he added.

Ramos said that if he could vote right now, he would choose the candidate with competence, integrity and character.

"Many of our countrymen are strongly influenced by emotion not when they choose their candidates. Unfortunately, the candidate may just be a creation of media and PR specialists who are experts in exploiting the public's vulnerabilities."

He added that the Philippines needs somebody strong, who has the character to work with a diverse group of people, under circumstances both good and bad.

The PCP, the 5,000-member-strong national umbrella organization of medical specialists in internal medicine and its subspecialty fields, unveiled the two flaws that the public and political leaders have acquired, as well as the four major health issues needing the society:

► **Health is misunderstood.** It has been seen as a cost rather than as investment. PCP has stated that if health's deliver life and its developments, it therefore must be spoken as a priority in nation-building because all the plans for productivity and economic growth mean nothing without good health. However, PCP has observed that this has been far from reality.

Seen as an entitlement

► **Health has been seen as an entitlement**, a right that civil society must provide in absence the responsibility and accountability for one's health are lost in the din of everyone's demands for free healthcare. As a result, the government and the healthcare providers have taken up defensive positions as opposite the citizenry. "Lifesaving gained and "lifesaving expired" as well as unutilized amounts find debt-ed free medicines that serve little benefit have become "solutions" to the problem. Citizens, meanwhile, continue to act irresponsibly and assume no accountability for their unhealthy behavior.

The four major issues:

1. So much needs to be done to alleviate poverty and give access to healthcare to the majority of Filipinos. Resource allocation for health has been limited not necessarily because the resources have been scarce but also because health has been viewed as consumption rather than as investment.

2. The quality of care, including the efficiency of the health system—both external and diverted—is inconsistent and very variable.

3. Intervening social, economic, political and cultural factors create conflicts that disturb the people's understanding of what health really is all about.

4. Making matters worse, healthcare providers opt to go to foreign lands to earn more, leaving behind a shortage of human resources that are indispensable as are the regulars.

The 'bikini malfunction' in women's health

NEW YORK—IF THE CITY THAT NEVER sleeps, close to 3,000 hypertension experts from all over the world, who gathered here this week for the 25th scientific session of the American Society of Hypertension, are losing sleep over the still-found roots of elevated blood pressure and its cardiovascular complications worldwide. This definitely accounts for the increased doubts attributed to hypertension.

Lemuzes also recommended that health practitioners should pay more attention to women with hypertension and cardiovascular disease and discard the so-called "bikini" orientation in women's health wherein focus of the medical practitioner is on problems involving the breast and reproductive organs, somewhat neglecting the other parts of the body, particularly the heart and the rest of the cardiovascular system.

Indeed, it's not an infrequent experience for the doctor to be closely monitoring and treating the husband for heart disease only to soon have that the wife has succumbed to a heart attack or stroke or even sudden death. All the time, the wife has been accompanying her husband to the doctor's clinic and the doctor never bothered to check on the wife's status.

The misconception is still highly prevalent worldwide that cardiovascular disease is a man's disease and women are considerably spared from it. Research data have now established that after the menopause, women in general tend to have a higher cardiovascular risk than men.

In fact, cardiovascular disease is now the top killer in women. Robotic women, particularly those a results higher risk for heart disease, have a second heart attack and die from it, or develop heart failure. And yet, women are being afforded less than ours the benefits of modern therapy such as optimal treatment with beneficial medicines, angioplasty or bypass surgery to revascularize or improve the circulation to the diseased heart.

MEDICAL FILES

By Jose Carlos M.D.

Getting short-changed

Women apparently are getting shortchanged in terms of getting optimal treatment for their cardiovascular illness. Physicians and other healthcare practitioners have to shake off the wrong notion that our lives to be more aggressive in treating cardiovascular disease in men, but not so in women. Getting rid of such gender bias can save a lot of women's lives purely worldwide including the Philippines.

There are differences in the ways and how men and women are further predisposed, the women's cardiovascular system is somehow protected by the female reproductive hormones particularly estrogen. But as the estrogen level progressively declines with age, this natural protection is lost and makes women even more vulnerable to hypertension, heart attacks and stroke after menopause.

Estrogen affects a great extent the endothelium which is the innermost lining of the blood vessels. Because of this, estrogen literally influences the constriction or narrowing, and dilation or widening of the blood vessels and how they respond to injury. This balance of the blood vessels completely change with low estrogen levels after menopause.

There are also some data from Finland that suggest that women's relatively low iron stores when she's still menstruating may also offer some protection for her from diseases contributed to her after menopause. The reported stress is the stimulation during pregnancy particularly if the woman develops preeclampsia (spiking of the blood pressure during pregnancy) to take an added risk factor for women which may impose coronary problems on as she ages.

During pregnancy, women have a higher risk of developing depression than men attributed to their production of the hormone serotonin. Depression is also an established predisposing and aggravating factor to cardiovascular disease.

Given a raw deal

So, by a conspiracy of natural physiology, medications and gender-specific disparities, women somehow are given a raw deal after menopause increasing their cardiovascular risk.

It's only in this decade that caution is needed in treating our women more than it used to. For the longest time, women have been clear other manifestations, or with women represented in extremely insignificant numbers, said Dr. Shannon Bloyer, director of the Bloyer Women's Heart Clinic in Scottsdale, in an interview published sometime ago. She elaborated further on this skewed research imbalance compromising optimal care for women.

"In the 1980s, enormous investment that have diverse into a man's disease were widely spread to the medical community and to the public. This led to research almost exclusively focused on cardiovascular disease in men. Many clinical trials in the '70s and '80s excluded women or simply didn't make an effort to enroll women in sufficient numbers to draw test-based conclusions."

Now, researchers are recruiting more women into clinical trials and they're analyzing research data by gender also to determine separately the risk of factor complications in women, and some may dispute this is the behavior or response of women to standard treatments as men routine. In a way, the impression that men are from Mars and women are from Venus may make sense sense in essence, the message that women's bodily systems are not exactly like a smaller version of their male counterparts.

It may be well and proper for researchers and healthcare practitioners to give focus the care and attention the deserves.

Free pneumonia shot targets poor elderly Filipinos

By Charlie E. Dobar

FLU AND PNEUMONIA ARE TWO INFECtious diseases that the elderly should watch out for. They could strike anytime and because early symptoms are often overlooked or considered less threatening, many end up in hospitals, fighting for their lives.

"Elderly individuals are among the most vulnerable to flu and pneumonia infection. Aside from the very young and the chronically ill, because flu often leads to pneumonia and that many deaths from pneumonia are really deaths caused by flu, the authorities the need to be protected from either or both of these acute and highly infectious respiratory diseases," informs Dr. Eduardo Bulgos, president of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians.

For the past three years PCEP through its partnership with Sanofi Pasteur has been initiating an annual advocacy campaign as well as providing free immunization to selected poor elderly Filipinos.

"This year, we are able to also get the support of the Dragonair Association of the Philippines (Drap), which donated P600,000 for the project, ensuring more indigent elderly Filipinos will be vaccinated against pneumonia in this year," says Bulgos.

The doctor expects that with the contributions from all the partners, this year's "A Dose of Love, A Shot of Hope" project was able to raise more than half a million pesos, enough to immunize for free more than 500 poor elderly Filipinos in senior areas all over the country.

The vaccine given provides elderly individuals protection against 23 of the most common types of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria, which are responsible for causing the most common pneumonia and other invasive diseases such as bacteremia (presence of bacteria in the blood) and meningitis.

Immunization sites

Drap president Theresita Ang-See says that this year four more vaccination sites in the Visayas and Mindanao will be added. These are Tacloban City, Tagbilaran City, Bacolod, and Kidapawan City, North Cotabato.

The first together was held in De La Salle University Medical Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite, in April four vaccination centers were able to immunize 600 poor elderly individuals.

With Kidapawan City scheduled next this month, preparations hope to finish administering the free immunization by July.

Bulgos informs that to each of this leg, PCCP members who are lung experts will conduct free lectures on emcees the audience on the seriousness of the disease and teach them how proper nutrition, exercises and good home hygiene could help prevent the spread of tuberculosis disease.

"We also remind them that getting vaccinated could save them from deadly complications as well as costly hospitalizations. This is because immunization is among the most cost-effective health interventions to prevent illnesses like flu and pneumonia. If the presented to prevent a disease from getting worse and even stop its progression to more serious complications," explains Ching Santos, sales and marketing director of Sanofi Pasteur.

This fact is acknowledged in the recently signed Expanded Senior Citizens Act wherein poor elderly Filipinos are now entitled to receive from the government free vaccination against the influenza virus and pneumococcal diseases.

Way of support

"This is our way of supporting the mandate. Considering this law addresses the country's estimated 4.6 million elderly Filipinos, serving that many individuals would need the cooperation of all sectors," Bulgos says.

He adds that pneumonia is not to be taken lightly, especially by the elderly.

"This is an infectious and inflammatory of the lung itself. In its most serious form, the bacterial pneumonia, the lung tissue becomes solid with bacteria, pus, blood and swollen lung tissue. Treatment would generally require X-ray diagnosis, oxygen, supportive treatment, such as adequate fluids, rest and usually powerful antibiotics," Bulgos explains.

With the risk of incidence and hospitalization involved plus the length of time needed for recovery, Bulgos says it's obvious why free vaccination is a much more practical option.

PCCP believes the elderly should be vaccinated against the pneumonia and flu.

GETTING vaccinated could save many elderly Filipinos from the deadly complications of pneumonia.

Extended up to May 31, 2010

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Editor Cesar D. Mangosing
PROPERTY

P3-B residential towers to revitalize Makati CBD North

By Tessa H. Salazar

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS are like the giant stars in an urban universe. They shine the brightest, but they also tend to burn out faster. A generation or two ago, the brightest CBDs were clustered in Manila (Escolta comes to mind). Somehow, the socioeconomic attraction of other business districts in other cities of Metro Manila soon outshone the traditional economic hotspots of the country's capital city.

Now, we see CBDs in Makati, Taguig, Ortigas and Quezon City. And arguably, the most established and recognized among these is the Makati Central Business District. But will the same fate befall today's brightest burning CBD?

Ayala Land Inc. executives quickly announced that the Makati CBD will not burn itself out, nor if they can do something about it, in fact, a rebirth of this segment of CBDs, they stress, is taking place.

Sustainable community

Rex Mendoza, Ayala Land's senior vice president and chief marketing sales officer, stressed during last week's press conference that Ayala's promise to its stakeholders is to preserve the value of the Makati CBD. He said that Makati is poised to become a more sustainable community in the near future.

Mendoza added that sustainability doesn't just always mean less density. "Denser" could also mean integration since there would be less carbon footprint, with residents walking to work or to malls because of proximity to all the areas of necessity.

Not to be outpointed by ALI's other trailblazing projects such as Newell in Laguna, the Makati CBD has been quietly revitalizing its own territory. Keen observers and CBD denizens would have to witness the changes at the Ayala Triangle Gardens, as well as Ayala Center's redevelopment of Elizcentro 1 and 2 malls, which are being transformed into a mixed-use integrated community, complete with hotel offerers, not to mention the Park Terraces project.

Now comes a three-tower residential project to be called The Lerato at the Makati CBD North, Ayala Land's newest crown of towers in Makati. The project cost is estimated at P3 billion, with the sales value of the first tower alone estimated at P1.65 billion.

The Lerato, an Alveo Land project, will stand eight storeys. The Coleman Ayala Avenue exactly on Nicanor Garcia Street.

Danny M. Alcuaz, Alveo Land president, described MCBD North as poised to become an "impactful, integrated mixed-use district." The Lerato will offer spatial sharing and cultural distinctions, complementing the diversity of lifestyles that its residents lead.

Alcuaz said The Lerato is essentially the tangible representation of Alveo Land's commitment to enrich the world life because of Makati's urban achievers.

For urban achievers

Jennylyn S. Tejmar, Alveo Land's project development group head, said The Lerato is designed for young urban achievers with combined monthly household incomes of P150,000 to P300,000, and that every building would feature outdoor and indoor amenities.

The first building, described as "very

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Dream communities for Filipino families

COSMOPOLITAN convenience together with a relaxing suburban hideaway is what you can expect at Ayala Land Inc.'s Avida Settings Nuvali.

IN A SPAN OF 20 YEARS, AYALA LAND transformed 682 hectares of idle land into dream communities for Filipino families. To date it has developed almost 26,000 house and lot and condominium units that were made available to the market.

And yet even more Filipino families stand to benefit from Ayala's vision and drive to further grow and expand. This year some 13,300 units will be made available for sale to the market, occupying 102 more hectares. Ayala will continue to expand in South Luzon and will venture into new areas in Visayas and Mindanao.

Ayala has 28 residential projects spread all over Luzon. Such developments began 28 years ago with a mass housing project in Laguna for Ayala employees.

AT THE HEART of the City of Man, Avida San Lazaro in Manila blends luxury significance with a modern, exciting urban lifestyle.

BLENDING access and convenience to centers of business, shopping and recreation with the privacy and serenity of suburban living, Avida Towers New Manila has the right balance of work, play and relaxation.

New territories

Also this year Ayala will expand to other growth centers in Metro Manila—Madrigal Business Park in Alabang, Bonifacio Triangle and Bonifacio Global City, Quezon City and Ortigas-Mandaluyong—and to South Luzon.

Avida's presence will be felt in the Visayas. A two-tower 1,000-unit residential condominium in Cebu will rise in Asia Town IT Park and a 685-lot and house and lot planned development is expected in Iloilo.

Nestled in the suburbs of Calamba, Laguna, is Avida Settings Nuvali. The last phase of this 43-hectare horizontal development recently offered for sale its last 300-plus units.

The new developments will take place also in Nuvali, adding an inventory of 2,400 units.

The launch of new towers—Avida Towers San Lorenzo, Makati; Avida Towers New Manila and Avida Towers Sonoma, Pantranjan—resulted in a combined total offering of 900 units.

All these will bring Avida's total available inventory to 10,500 units this year.

New markets

After providing decent homes for the middle class, Ayala is now poised to reach out to the broad C market, aiming for families with a combined income of P251,000 to P600,000.

In Nuvali, Avida is set to launch a new development that will offer house and lot packages starting at a very affordable P1.4 million. This new residential community is designed along the environment-friendly and sustainability theme of Nuvali, which will allow more families to experience ecologically-sound living at its best. The village will encourage interaction among members of the community through its open spaces, facilities and amenities.

Avida, Ayala's new brand, will launch a line of economic housing packages priced from P600,000 to P1.2 million in Calamba, Laguna. It will launch innovative house designs and distinctive community concepts for the benefit of young Filipino families who want to start right in making their dream homes a reality.

Reaching out

As more and more Filipinos work overseas, Ayala will also be reaching out to them. In 1998 Avida opened an investment office in Milan to address the needs OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) in Europe. A few years, Avida offices were also opened in Singapore and Dubai.

The company continues to strengthen its sales force in areas where there are OFWs to Europe, the Middle East, Australia and select Asian countries. These efforts will include setting up sales offices, a more aggressive brand building/marketing campaign as well as a series of road shows. Share for sale will also be established with financing institutions like sister company BPI and other remittance services to make it more convenient for OFWs to buy properties overseas.

Reliable partner

In celebrating its 20th anniversary, Avida is confident that it can double its sales target in the next two years with the expansion of current projects, combined with a dedicated, highly competent 2,000-strong sales force.

Young couples starting their own families will find Avida as a reliable partner. Together they can provide a safe, secure, tranquil and beautiful haven for their children, where they can build and realize dreams for a lifetime.

There's nothing sweeter for a Filipino couple or an entire family than the chance to say to one another, "Dito na tayo forever" as they sit back and enjoy the life they have long dreamed of. As they experience the comfort and trust Avida can offer, they will surely be glad that they made the right choice.

More prestigious living spaces at The Capital Towers' second high-rise

SINCE DRAWING MIDDLE AND UPPER class homebuyers to its first tower located on E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue in Quezon City, The Capital Towers is set to redefine prestigious living in the city's high-end commercial center with the construction of its second tower.

With the Athena Tower now sold out and almost ready for turnover, The Capital Towers takes condominium living to the next level with a second high-rise, the Beijing Tower.

"The Beijing Tower is a fitting follow-up to the Athena Tower," says Renato Uy, first vice president of Federal Land Inc., developer of The Capital Towers. "Interesting to note as well is that these two towers were named after capital cities that hosted the Olympic Games in 2004 and 2008, respectively."

The target completion date for Beijing is 2012 is still far ahead, but Uy says a significant number of units have already been presold so far, a fitting testament to The Capital Tower's appeal to investors, executives, young professionals and start-up couples.

Spacious units

The 33-story Beijing Tower is the second development of The Capital Towers. Much like the Athena Tower that was inspired by Grecian and Mediterranean theories, the Beijing Tower will also have a distinct Oriental spirit beginning at its lobby. Equally captivating as Athena Tower's cosy bedroom and two-bedroom offerings are the Beijing Tower's spacious units now on presale.

Once completed, the Beijing Tower will have 25-square meter studio units, 29-sq m and bedroom units, 41-sq m one bedroom deluxe and 50- to 80-sq m junior two-bedroom units. All corner units can easily be combined to form bigger units fit for growing families and for greater freedom of movement and enjoyment.

The first finishes of the ceiling is seen to maximize the height of the area. Glass sliding doors will allow the most natural lighting and ventilation to flow inside the units while a garbage disposal system will be availed use to effectively manage waste.

Thirty floors of Beijing Tower will be divoted to residential condominium while 4 floors will be used for parking spaces. One floor will be for commercial units. The fully-furnished commercial area in the Athena Tower now houses a Metrobank branch and a National Bookstore. A convenience store and two coffee shops are also set to open soon.

Trademark prestige

Reinforcing the trademark prestige of living at The Capital Towers is its grand driveway or "porte cochere." Distinctive-wise, the Beijing Tower and the Athena Tower are both nestled on a podium, which will house the amenities such as the swimming pool, wading pool, reflecting pool and garden, jogging path, gym/fitness center and children's playground, a function room, another garden for jogging or meditation, a daycare center and a business center.

Located on E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, the project makes the address strategic as it connects to the business center in Cubao and the nightlife spots in Timog Morato.

The road, likewise, is lined with key commercial establishments, including numerous institutions (Trinity University of Asia, St. Paul and St. Joseph), hospitals (St. Luke's Medical Center, Dr. Leo Santos ENT Medical Center, National Children's Hospital), churches (Christ the King Parish and Santo Niño de Sicsican), shopping centers (Project 4 and Welcomart), and recreational hubs (Quezon City Sports Club).

The Capital Towers is fast redefining modern living in the E. Rodriguez area. The Athena and Beijing Towers will surely give prestige with comfort and luxury to newcomers making their lifestyle at par with high-end residents of New Manila.

Luxurious urban living at One Shangri-La Place

LOOKING FOR A PLACE IN THE CITY TO call your own? You'll find it in Shang Properties' newest residential development. One Shangri-La Place, which masterfully blends luxury convenience and comfort to create a place that will truly feel like home.

The latest quality project of Shang Properties Realty Corp., One Shangri-La Place is a luxury twin-tower residential development that will stand atop a 6-level mall and is also the company's prestigious entry of residential and commercial developments (The St. Francis Shangri-La Place, The Shang Grand Tower, The Enterprise Center and Shangri-La Plaza Mall).

Combined effort

This architectural landmark features the combined efforts of architectural consultants Skidmore & Turner Hong Kong, Casas + Architects, Mo Studio Works, Hong Kong; RTK Worldshop Ltd., Hong Kong; LEE Design Ltd., Hong Kong, Aecom (formerly Maunsell Pbtls.); Meinhardt Phils., Sandoza Inc., and Dario Langhoff & Beth, showcasing comfortable units meticulously designed with high ceilings and roomy interiors for a relaxing and luxurious feel.

At One Shangri-La Place, residents will be guaranteed impressive amenities and services suited for anyone and everyone—guests, a fully equipped gym, changing rooms, a play area and game rooms as well as a four-level parking podium.

Residents will also appreciate the access to Shangri-La Plaza expansion mall, which will feature popular exclusive retail establishments, sure to be every shopping enthusiast's haven. Commuting is also relatively hassle-free, as One Shangri-La Place will offer direct access to the MRT Shaw station via Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

Convenient location

Comfortably nestled in the middle of the bustling Ortigas Center district, right at the crossroads of EDSA, One Shangri-La Place is conveniently situated in the center of Shangri-La Place, an integrated community that binds together some of Shang Properties' most well-known projects.

Across it is the 3-star Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, which features the world-class Chi Spa, and connected to it via underground is the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, which offers a wide range of upscale shopping choices, entertainment venues and dining options.

One Shangri-La Place is also conveniently located near business conclaves such as the San Miguel Corp. and the Philippine Stock Exchange, prestigious schools including Brenda, the University of Asia and the Pacific, La Salle Greenhills and modern hospitals like the Medical City and Cardinal Santos Medical Center, making it a prime place for every family and working professional.

SHANG Properties' newest residential development, One Shangri-La Place masterfully blends luxury, convenience and comfort to create a place that will truly feel like home.

Prices of One Shangri-La Place's luxurious residences start at P12 million for studio units and P15 million for one-bedroom units.

P3-B residential . . .

From page B1-1

residents with a quaint retail precinct," will house wellness areas, gyms and a meditation room. The second building will be a venue for appreciating the arts, with its music rooms and an auditorium/theater. There will also be a parade area, a jogging trail, a reed deck/garden for people to converge.

The Lemon includes a 3,000-sq m retail community with a grocery at the basement, while the second level will offer basic services, laundry shops and dental clinics.

The ground floor level will highlight a row of a-kind dining area. The open space is projected at 1,250 sq m, which could be used as a weekend market or as a venue for outdoor performances.

Record-breaking sales

The Forest 3 will have 340 units comprised of 320 studio units and 120 bedroom units, with a 32-sq m studio unit estimated to cost P3 million. Other unit sizes range from 44 to 57 sq m, a one-bedroom unit would cost from P4.7 million to P6.4 million.

The Lemon's day-one priority selling reached up 25 percent of the 1,000 available units, or half a billion pesos, a record breaker for Alveo Land.

Generoso Filipinas are expected to follow suit with its multi-phase purchases.

The expected turnover of the units is in the fourth quarter of 2015.

The residential towers will have 30 residential floors, two basement parking levels, four podium parking, one amenity level and a roof deck.

The Lemon is once commercial, retail, educational and international landmarks such as Ayala Malls Greenbelt, Glorietta, Makati Medical Center, Medical Plaza, Ateneo Graduate School, Mapua Institute of Technology, De La Salle Graduate School of Business, Assumption College, Colegio San Agustin, Makati Sports and Makati Golf.

"The Lemon is for the new Makati resident. One that sees the Makati not just as a corporate arena but appreciates it as a new frontier that combines work and recreation," said Abando.

And that's also to ensure the Makati CBD's bright future.

Helping the unsung heroes of the real estate industry

WHEREVER I TRAVEL ABROAD AND meet our countrymen gainfully employed and doing a good job there, I want to pump their hand in thanks and congratulations. I have come to realize, albeit slowly here not, that they are my unsung heroes. From domestic helpers to licensed professionals working abroad, this demographic seems makes up a large percentage of the buyers and investors in our country's real estate industry. They are the reason real estate continues to sell despite tough times, from second-tier housing all the way to the high-end properties.

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Arguably, the most significant impetus behind the real estate industry in our country today is attributable to our overseas contract workers. This group includes our nurses and caregivers in Britain and the United States, our engineers in the Middle East, our hospitality professionals in Macau, our domestic workers in Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as the seamen plying the seven seas of the world.

Home of their dreams

Their love for family inspires them to withstand the challenges of employment abroad and motivates them to send back most of their earnings, toward the ultimate dream of buying, building, owning the home of their dreams. It is awesome and deeply moving when you really think about it.

What then is the apt response to this overflows that drives our economy forward?

From the government, we expect and demand not merely the enactment of laws for their protection from illegal recruitment and unjust or abusive employers, but also concrete incentives to show encouragement and how much we value their contributions, by way of more benefits for their families here and less bureaucratic hurdles for them.

Friendlier loan packages

The financial sector could fashion friendlier loan packages and more attractive investment options. From the construction sector itself, perhaps developers could come up with projects that are more native fit to the island lot and needs of Filipino families. Perhaps, we should convince projects closer to their original footprints or design homes that are efficient and flexible enough to grow along with them (i.e. semi-expandable).

The government, the banks and the developers could sit down together and help the overseas breadwinners achieve his goals. Such concerted efforts will make it easier for the mother to choose to invest his money as wise and beneficial projects, rather than reckless extravagances elsewhere.

If we make the home-brand investment option attractive and accessible, the dedicated and hardworking person will take that high road. In that case, everybody wins.

There is much we can do to support their dreams and ambitions. Doing so would certainly benefit the country's economy as well.

For your comments and questions, please e-mail marcos.deguzman@yahoo.com.

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PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Dream communities** for Filipino families/B2-2

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■ **Helping the unsung** heroes of the real estate industry /B2-3

Every Filipino dreams of his own home. For 40 years now, the Active Group has transformed raw landscapes into vibrant homescapes where dreams do come true... from highlands where the ground meets the sky, all the way to the shorelines where the land kisses the sea. Come, make your home an Active Group community.

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Why you should wear white tomorrow

By Pam Pastor

THERE ARE WAYS TO MAKE yourself heard without really speaking. Like Rock Ed's Sunday Silence gatherings.

In 2008 and 2009, Rock Ed held silent gatherings at the bayanihan across Manila Bay. There were different reasons—the massacre March, the 9,000-218 investigation, the cards gifts in Malacañang, book issues, Ondoy, the suicide of an 11-year-old from Davao.

At the gatherings, there were no speeches, no placards, no propaganda, just a big crowd standing in support of one issue or in protest of a big issue.

Rock Ed founder Greg Bañez said: "The whole point of Sunday Silence is to flex the muscle of getting up from the couch-to-computer-table dance to stand in the streets when something has to be said."

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A message from the milk that supports Program

Iriene Ferre-Bilbao
Philippine Snow

Presidential face-off on Facebook

By Bianca Consunji

SIX YEARS AGO, during the 2004 presidential elections, social networks were just getting started. Text messaging "Tulfo me on Friendster" was the catchphrase of the day (saying that now equals social suicide) and Facebook and Twitter were concepts that hadn't even been dreamed of yet.

But by the time 2010 rolled around and social networks had gained considerable momentum, Noynoy Aquino astounded the world with a new approach to political campaigning—one that leaned heavily on the Internet and redefined politics in the process.

The rise of the Internet made his campaign's slogan, "Change na can believe in," more believable because the medium allowed voices (particularly the youth) to interact with Noynoy. Thanks to regular updates on his website, Facebook and Twitter pages, it was easier to gain access to information and feel connected with the young presidential aspirant.

The Internet also made it easier for supporters to fund his campaign. Roughly half of his campaign fund came from online supporters.

From there, the world followed suit, although few were able to replicate Noynoy's success with social networking. This was primarily due to the fact that few candidates around the world are as well equipped as the US in terms of technology and access to it.

#1 Add as President

However, even developing countries in Africa and Asia have embraced the Internet as a means to campaign for their candidates.

In the Philippines, where social networking sites not only thrive but consistently top usage statistics, it was only natural for local candidates to turn to the Internet in the 2010 elections. A study released by Universal McCann in 2009 revealed that 83 percent of the people surveyed were members of a social network. DigitalFilipinos.com stated that about 400,000 Filipinos log on to Facebook daily.

A study by the University of the Philippines Diliman's College of Mass Communication entitled "FaceBAKING: Uncovering Filipino Culture in Facebook" revealed that for people aged 16-20 years old, Facebook has become an almost daily ritual, used both for personal information and as a way to keep up with current events.

While no official statistics have been released from Facebook, Inside Scoop of Multiply and Peter Pasado of Multiply have both admitted that Filipinos comprise the biggest percentage of visitors for Friendster and Multiply in 2008.

Knowing the Filipino penchant for social networking, all the presidential candidates set up Facebook and Twitter accounts so their supporters could have access to them. While Obama's campaign is a tremendous improvement in terms of access to information to voters, any dark Facebook pages adequately equipped to inform voters about their platforms and stands on issues?

Paper compared the Facebook pages of the 2010 presidential candidates, and here's how they measure up.

E-mail the author at bianca.consunji@yahoo.com or visit www.newsstreetmarketing.com.

Noynoy Aquino
Liberal Party

Number of fans: 551,389.00 (for unofficial "Noynoy Aquino For President" page, and 43,032 on another fan page.

The official Noynoy Aquino Facebook page is fewer, although in February, it hit over 600,000 supporters; the unofficial fan page explains that the "Page may be closed down as 600 limited publishing rights of Admin. We have verified only one Administrator with the official Noynoy Team but He didn't answer it."

What the page contains: The unofficial fan page contains a comprehensive list of links of official webpages and news articles related to Aquino. It also details the Liberal Party's commercials.

Quotable quote: "The platform of change? One man is not just leading in polls, but also leading in letting the country know of his platform with the others are bean counting on how to win. The leadership and service!"

What the fans say: "Inevitably the baton campaign sa at Noynoy on nominasyon. He deserves it for the mid-right on the head. I support him for all he's been through to the people may fans. There are times on this extending him much to fast to contemplate g., World Bank report."

Super's verdict: Some it's more official, there's not much going on, but it's a good jump off point.

Manny Villar
Nacionalista Party

Number of fans: 1,309,584

What the page contains: Links to his official sites, Twitter, blogs. It also contains an at-a-glance article on why people should vote for Villar, official statements on controversies surrounding him, YouTube videos of him on the campaign trail, testimonies from supporters and a discussion page.

Quotable quotes: "A particular record of accomplishment is a far better indicator of a candidate's performance in office than anything he or his supporters while campaigning for same."

What the fans say: "Some quotes would try to make us forget about all the good qualities of Manny Villar. We of all the candidates, only Villar has a full record of accomplishments and good deeds to society."

Super's verdict: Organized and efficient, with what to clearly a team of designated bloggers/updaters manning the site. Good if you want to check out what Villar has to say in his defense regarding the various controversial issues surrounding him.

Ejercito Estrada
Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino

Number of fans: 339,067

What the page contains: Links to his website, Twitter account, blogs. It also contains his headquarters address, contact details of the Grace Santos, platform and core values, events calendar, photos, bulletins/memos, and testimonials about him from friends and other politicians.

Quotable quote: "I believe that economics can be wrong only if their primary motivations are wrong." "A soldier passes battle not because he hates the person in front of him, but because he loves the person behind him."

What the fans say: "If you don't like Cito, do not listen when he talks, if you listen you might end up voting for him. That's how good he is."

Super's verdict: This is the most comprehensive and solid Facebook fan page.

Jejomar Binay
Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino

Number of fans: 10

What the page contains: With 10 fans and no activity from the moderator, there's not much to see except his bio and one photo.

Quotable quote: "Become a fan now!" (For the only thing on the site).

What the fans say: "Tara sagot—Jake Reyes." It's the only reply on the site.

Super's verdict: If Delos Reyes had been serious about his campaign, he should've gotten himself a domain—and official—Facebook page, because this one's probably not owned by his party.

JC Delos Reyes
Ang Kapatiran

Joseph Estrada
Partido ng Masang Pilipino

Number of fans: 40,434

What the page contains: A list of links to Estrada's websites, personal to Twitter, Friendster and YouTube. It also contains a comprehensive bio, scheduled speeches, images, sample ballots, videos, a GMA/PAG position and articles about him. It's frequently updated.

Quotable quotes: "Walang tatalunang sa Pilipinong may Ama't ang kapwa Pilipino."

What the fans say: "Just got home from President Erap's Club Filipino press conference in Greenhills. Good news! Sinabi ni Jose patulo na lang ang delicemere. Cheers!"

Super's verdict: The page is well-maintained and loaded with information about the candidate. Supporters can easily navigate their way to other websites with additional information pertaining to Estrada.

Jamby Madrigal
Independent

Number of fans: 3,419

What the page contains: Links to her websites, Twitter account, YouTube channel and blog. It also contains frequent updates and campaign photos, as well as Jim Paredes' video of "Manny Villar: hard-grinding in San Pedro, Laguna."

Quotable quote: "Institutionalized corruption is the new president's top challenge."

What the fans say: "Whatever, Jamby!"

Super's verdict: Plenty of press release-style photos, but not much in terms of real information. The site seems to draw a lot of anti-Madrigal comments.

Nicanor Perlas
Independent

Number of fans: 7,609

What the page contains: Links to his official website, his bio, YouTube videos, photos, and it has very few non-provincial activities.

Quotable quote: "The battle has just started. The process of bringing true change to our country has just begun. It is a continuation of the battle started by Ninoy Aquino, and continued by Dr. Jose Rizal, put into a revolution by Supreme Andres Bonifacio, rekindled by Nick Ortiz and now is calling us to join and be part of the battle!"

What the fans say: "Hi Ferlas, you have my vote! Yes, may not win, but what is one, important in achieving this right choice and feeling proud of that choice."

Super's verdict: Not a lot of action going on with the fans, but the ones who do comment are Perlas's supporters. Begrudgingly updated.

Gordon
For President

Nick Gordon
Presidentiable Bro!

Number of fans: 49,588

What the page contains: A detailed platform, active links to YouTube videos about him, a handful of photos from fans, and a link to a mailing list.

Quotable quote: "Bolitas ang fix para sa mapaling at metal-ocean bouldaries, bolitas ang para sa bocas sa pinabasang galing, pinabasa mulos sa pinakasalanang tagaya at nagpapapogi, dahil tayo-mas mo-ay magaling at matalino!"

What the fans say: "We need a good and responsible leader. An action man and not one that is soo.... so-so else. God bless you."

Super's verdict: It's a good place for Gordon supporters to converge and obtain information, although he could have done better to create a "Join us/official websites.

Bro. Eddie Villanueva
Bangon Pilipinas

contains. Links to his Twitter account, his bio, contact details, YouTube videos and supporter discussions.

Quotable quotes: "Bangon, Pilipinas!"

What the fans say: "Tinig ng Diyos' Bro. Eddie Villanueva ang hinahanap ng mga mamamayan ng ating mga araw. Mag-pag-asa pa, Sumpa pa Pilipinas!"

Super's verdict: Villanueva's Facebook page seems to be a place for supporters to express their feelings, instead of an outlet to obtain information. Not very useful.

Why you should wear...

From page C3

"Before we say, May 9, Rock Ed once again invites people to head to Ilac Ingwalls to ask for the power, and pray! Tomorrow, May 6, Rock Ed wants you to forget about pens, pulitics, revenge and wear white—to urge that our votes be respected. For democracy in the whole!

"The shocked at how we let the Hello Garci scandal pass. We can't let that happen again. These elections, Rock Ed, a group with a genuine aim of deliverer political leaders would like to invite everyone to get together. Green, yellow, orange wants should come together and present a united front against cheaters, buraot, officials and close elections. What we're asking for is not even cotton. This is a minimum requirement of a democracy. It's a basic," Lang added.

Rock Ed will also hold a bank drive.

Lang said, "Rock Ed will bring banks to donate. If you have banks you want to donate, bring them. He will lay the banks down on the floor of Roxas Boulevard, and the rule is—if you have, you give. If you need, you get. Ayos!

Tomorrow, dip on your favorite white shirt and in motion, head to the Roxas Boulevard corner Macapagal Avenue. Make Church along Roxas Boulevard.

It doesn't matter which candidate you support. Because when it comes to asking for those elections, we should all be on the same team.

2b LIFESTYLE
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What can we do to guard the ballot?

By Taffy C. Salazar
Student correspondent,
Philippine Science High School

WHAT CAN WE do to help our vote in the elections? Here's what some young people say.

"I plan to join the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting or PPCRV and those like. I Parod Ito, so I can help guard the ballot. As a youth leader in Green Inch Village, I want to be a role model to my peers, especially those who can vote but are indifferent. As Dr. Jose Rizal said, 'ang di-lumingon sa pinag-pugasan ng lupa' ('The youth is the hope of our country')." —Jhaye Cajumoc, 18, University of the East

"To help make the upcoming elections successful, I can contribute by educating others on the proper way of voting. It is important for the youth to vote, because we can help make a change. Our lives and our future depend on our votes. We shouldn't waste our chance to decide the country's future. If we want change, we must be willing to contribute. 'Vote!'" —Adlyn Rivera Lucadan, 20, De La Salle University-Manila

"Every candidate running has his or her own opinions and beliefs. Go for the ones you truly believe have the power to make a change. To contribute to the success of the elections, we can join organizations like Bantay Bata, to help persons running." —Francesca Ramadona, 20, De La Salle University-Manila

"Vote, and vote wisely! Encourage others to vote wisely as well. The future of the next generation depends on us, the youth. The results depend on our vote. We have the power to make a difference." —Penchope Ann Khah, 18, Angeles University Foundation

"We can help by volunteering as poll watchers, counters, citizen reporters and promoters of peaceful and meaningful elections. We can also help the elderly who may encounter difficulty in filling up the ballots. We are given the privilege to vote and the power to make a change because we are old enough to know what's right and what's wrong." —Kathleen Ann B. Tenorio, 20, Lyceum of the Philippines University

"I'll guard my vote by keeping my eyes and ears wide open. If I see something incorrect, I'll report it quickly. I'll not let my rights be

hindered; a single vote can make a difference and change millions of people's lives." —John Lazarate, 16, San Sebastian College-Recoletos

"The simplest thing I can do to help is become aware of what is happening, and, if the conditions, to act depending on the situation." —Jonathan Habinay, 20, Binnatmanan ng Lungsod ng Muntilla

'We must make sure there's no automated Garci'

"As a first-time voter, I won't be blinded by unnecessary promises made by candidates, because I might be paving the country's future in jeopardy. My vote counts, and I accept the responsibility of helping shape the future of my country." —Jeanne Melendez, 18, UST

"I am a member of an electoral watch campaign that has set up a hotline where concerned citizens can report cases of clahemony in the precincts. Even if I'm not an official poll watcher, I would be very willing to step in the polling station to guard the votes."—Criselle Zapata, 18, UST

"Since this our first automated election, I'll make sure that my vote is cast properly. Ballot scarcity has been an issue since the news about malfunctioning machines, so keeping myself updated on the latest issues and volunteering to be a local watchdog can be a way to help achieve clean and honest elections." —Czarina Mae Flores, 19, Philippine State College of Aeronautics

"Being informed is one of the most important things in this election. It's not enough for one to know; one must also understand. To this is exactly what I'm doing to guard my vote. Promises made on TV commercials or in campaign speeches are not enough to convince me to vote for one candidate. Instead, researching on candidates helps me to understand what they have done and what they are capable of doing, based on their track record. Also, guarding my vote is important because, although elections are on a macro-level, the election outcome will inevitably affect me." —Angelo Montoya, 19, UP Diliman

"To guard my vote and be aware of the elections, I read and listen to reports in the newspaper and TV about the preparation for the polls

"To guard my vote, the best thing to do is to vote! Because other people might use your identity to vote. Also, we must be very observant during the election and report things we see are wrong." —Nick Alberto Joaquin Montemayor, 21, Southville International School & College

works before the elections. And on May 10-12, we will volunteer for the election coverage at Bureau of Broadcast Services, Quezon City. The elections are important because not only will it give us our next president, but also the type of government we will have for the next six (6) years. It's either we make it come in progress or we break our chance as a country forever." —Brentville Monleod, 16, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Muntilla

"To be sure that my vote gets counted and the ballots not stuffed, I should fill the ballots correctly and should properly shed to secure the ballots, we must be watchful and vigilant, to make sure Garci will be an 'Inalienated Garci.' I think modern technology like cell phones, digicams and the Internet are great tools to help us spread the news if something goes wrong, so we can easily report it to organizations like Rotc Mo, i-Watch Mo. To those old enough to vote but choose not to—remember, your vote spell a big difference in the results of the election." —Jan Michael T. Domingo, 22, Bulacan State University

Additional compilation by Josephyn Bocania, student correspondent from Polytechnic University of the Philippines

18 and under: Not voting, but not voiceless

Thoughts from those who can't vote just yet

By Angelica Y. Yang
Student correspondent,
Immaculate Conception Academy

FOLKS SAY WE CAN'T VOTE, at least not yet, as I, with my summer mates, are still 18 and below. But that doesn't mean we don't have a voice.

I'vean my tshirt (illustration) in adult positions in my eschath in cooking and baking class, and my ex-"freedom writers" in my class's story workshop this summer, I realize that in the May 10 elections these sens, bra we, the under-aged, who have the biggest stake of all.

We come in colorful tee-shirts and spurred ballot hands proclaiming the candidates we would vote for—had we been of age. Sometimes we even spartel, marching our feisty views with our bolders (wooden Japanese swords), pens and spatulas as who should really lead this country!

So here are some voices, which I hope would help shape your decisions on Election Day.

Kyle Lo, 15: "For me a good leader is a servant leader. Someone who is more of Jesus Christ."

MC Suroja, 15: "A good leader needs to know how to be friends with his/her team. He/she needs to understand each and everyone so that he/she can know what to do in times of challenges. And he/she needs good qualities so that people on the team can follow his/her qualities."

Shia Olivaguin, 15: "A good leader is an individual who can take the responsibilities of the people who voted him/her and can make changes whenever it takes."

Andrea de Leon, 15: "I think a good leader must have a good sense of justice and must never be biased when making decisions. He/she should really care for the people and do what he/she can do to help them. A perfect leader is impossible to get, but we should at least get a leader who can admit he/she is wrong and will try his/her best to make up for it instead of running away. He/she must also not be corrupt, or else the people will suffer."

Michelle "Jaime" Ng, 13: "I think a good leader is made of good character, and has love for the place he is about to rule."

Michelle Tangco, 14: "A good leader is a good listener and is keen observer. He can easily tell what his people need, what they want and what is important to them. He also takes time to listen to them and does not just do whatever he thinks is right. A good leader makes wise decisions that are for the good of most of the people, even if that doesn't include himself. He thinks of everyone else before himself and devotes all he does to his people. A good leader loves his people and they love him back, because they see the effort and now their leader is in his works to benefit them."

Patty Olivan, 12: "I believe there's a leader inside everyone. One who can relate to all kinds of people. He/she should have empathy and compassion and believes in faith and in the talents of each unique individual. A leader is like a mother, always willing to love children, always striving to provide them with their needs. Leaders feel joy and great satisfaction in serving. They pour their hearts out and cherish every opportunity to serve. Why? Because when they serve, they know how to give back to God."

Angelina Lukasko, 13: "Someone honest and treats everyone equally. He or she does not resort to use or violence to solve a problem. He/she helps his/her countrymen at all costs, even putting his life on the line to save his/her country; he/she

FRANCH MERCADO

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MARKET! MARKET!

How we 'rocked the vote' for hope, change–and rockin' music

I understand now that the privileges I'm able to enjoy also depend on the decisions our leaders make

CROWD at the Manila Gym

Third Gold: Noel Cabangon performs original Pinoy music

ON ROUTE on our bus with Bamboo, Jay Tee Rock The Vote

By Barbara Cruz
Contributor

PEOPLE DO I REGRET IT? I been a whirlwind of faces and places that I barely have enough time to step back and gauge how far I've traveled, literally and figuratively.

I recently participated in a road trip called "Rock The Vote: Road Trip to Change," a concert caravan that made its way through different areas in the Philippines in support of the Liberal Party's movement for change.

We hitched our flyers, yellow ribbon stickers and ballot IDs, did interminable and bold concerts at night. Sounds simple? Believe me, it wasn't. We trolled deep with three buses and a handful of cars.

Most young people, myself included, would normally keep sort of politics for nobody ever said politics, music and creativity don't mix. And so they did, for nine straight days, throughout the 1,000 kilometers we traveled—and that was just the first leg alone.

We departed from Manila in the morning of April 17 and were scheduled Pampanga before holding our first concert there, with bands Moonstar88, Spongecola and Jaks.

I remember hopping onto our official Rock The Vote bus headed to the fact that me still please had been woken while I was chopping for supplies just the night before. But as a friend the movie "300," I channeled the most Spartan-like mindset I could muster and set Leonidas' famous battle cry as the message slurs tone on a borrowed phone.

Highlight

The concert was always the highlight of the day. At 6 p.m., just before we opened the gates, I'd have this giggling fan class unlucky man going to show up, the thanks to the combined efforts of participants and volunteers from Touch Pro Nay and Pinoy Pride, we were able to pack venues with crowds of up to 30,000.

We were promoters in the morning, concert organizers by mid-afternoon, and production hosts come nightfall. With performances by popular artists such as Sugarfree and Bind Cabalgan, including members from rappers and dance crews, every night was a celebration!

I am thankful for the fact that, without those artists who ventured out with us, people would not have gotten to know a little bit more about good candidates like the ILAWAT LOKSIN! duo. It wasn't just dead air that received the message of hope and change we were advocating.

Needless to say, we never ran out of things to do. By day 7, we were practically running on willpower alone. There were times I had to remind myself where I was in space and time, even as I fought the urge to simply hide and sleep.

Despite the fatigue, we all knew since the beginning that we were in it together. There was no slacking on. Of course, we had those genuinely unforgettable moments, like when we all stood at the northern tip of Luzon seeing the endless horizon.

Appreciation

Since Rock The Vote first hit the road, it has landed in 11 provinces in Luzon, Cagayan de Oro and Cebu, forcing the things I learned as individual appreciation for OPM and a new-found talent for designing cut-up shirts. I also found that Batman shout Natom all-at-once advocating.

LOCAL dance crew wows the audience Jabbawockeez-style.

HYDDENES and during Rock The Vote segment at the People Power Monument in Edsa

DAY 6. Our caravan receives a warm welcome from kids in Ilocos.

trip but a cinematic of sorts. Not once I cannot say of it feeling even more like a spectator. The journey was truly epic. But the destination is what made it all worthwhile.

Their voices are important, too

By Harvey S. Mercadeo
Contributor

IF THE 2013 PRESIDENTIAL elections are, indeed, a serious vote for change, why don't we also change the tired local point of the campaign?

For decades, the election period has been the time where we hear those politicos whine about the things we do not like about our country and point their evils as inept and evil. But how about shifting the focus from what's bad about our country to giving the Filipino people something to feel good about?

That is, in fact, a political ad in Australia created to address this trend. Cheche Malaya-Lazaro's Dentsu Makabago for former Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro.

This political ad is different for its positive message. It's not the usual spin—what we do not like about the Philippines—but about what is beautiful about our country and culture and what are Filipinos want to achieve.

The ad features charming by women of the Blaan tribe, summoning divine intervention to ensure that their voices, too, are heard in this election. "Dinyan (until ang ilang tig 100 votes is importante)," says the ad.

The Blaan tribe is proto-Malayan indigenous group found mostly in Davao del Sur and South Cotabato. They are notably born of the T'boli and live in Lake Sebu. They adhere to subsistence form of agriculture, more importantly they are also Filipinos who deserve to be integrated into the mainstream politics.

The Panatang Makabago ad (Jaro translate "Panatang Makabago" in Tagalog) was created and produced by a volunteer group supporting Gibo Teodoro's bid for the presidency and is intended as a regional ad for Mindanao.

Though not a "stellar" production, without recognizable faces or a catchy jingle, it does a unique service by giving voice to marginalized folk. Indeed, deserves props for trying to reach out to everyone regardless of class or culture. The choice of concert is most impressive, despite his association with the incumbent, than those who flood us with tired scenes of the Philippines as a nation swimming in a sea of rubbish.

OUR Muslim brothers

THE AD showcases the rich culture of our country

WOMEN from the B'laan tribe

The 'Panatang Makabago' ad reminds us–tribal Filipinos also have a right to be heard

18 and under ...

From page B1

didn't become a leader for fame and wealth, but to assist and lead the ones in needs to better life. He/she is never one to consider to doing his/her job; not leaving his/her resources for them to help."

Clarissa Tiensing, 18: "I would like to say that a good leader is someone influential. I would like that person to inspire the children of today that everything they wished and hoped for could be achieved in a clear and peaceful way. A good leader is someone who can handle any type of situation."

Krisalina Calimlim, 19: "I believe a leader should be a good example; someone who really possesses the values he or she wants to instill in his or her followers. Everything starts from that. If he or she wants her followers to work hard, so should he/she. If he/she wants them to be honest, threefold, positive and dedicated, she/he must be the first to be that way. Prove with your principles."

There are many things that make a great leader. I believe the greatest of them all is being someone who didn't ever expect to get a particular role. There are many who are ambitious, arrogant and blinded by greed for power. Then there those who may be ambitious but remain humble, and it is their humility that enables them to see clearly and have a vision for their followers. It is humility, too, that makes such leaders approachable, even loved by the people they're leading. As a wise woman once said, "God does not call the equipped; he equips the called."

Colleen Gatchalian, 18: "A good leader is someone who is smart, willing to help others and knows what he's doing."

Abigail Paje, 18: "A good leader is one who can lead this country to a better place. One who can make sacrifices."

Wood Cedric Cruz, 19: "A good leader gives a personal guidance and direction to usual others. A good leader does not seek the limelight. A good leader must be fair. A good leader must be determined and must be ready for new challenges. And, most importantly, a good leader is honest."

Nikki Encinas, 18: "A good leader is someone who serves the country has compassion for the people and acts on what he/she has to help the people and the nation. He also has done something to help."

Now you know what the under-aged want from a good leader. It is your call now who you want to vote for in the upcoming May 13 elections. Do not be afraid to make a stand! He who can't vote on Monday have already made the choice. Now, it is your turn: Go out there and be heard!

Your vision for your country is your vote

Ryan del Prado Andres' personal photo exhibit bats for 'meaningful elections'

WHAT started out as personal art on Facebook led to election advocacy.

RYAN DEL PRADO ANDRES, a 23-year-old Ateneo Law graduate and Bar Candidate for 2010, has put together a personal campaign bridging his art—photography—and his cause—meaningful elections.

His series of photos entitled "Vote For Me" has escalated interest in voter networking sites and has struck a nerve with many young voters for its raw imagery and simple message.

What gave you the idea to do a personal political campaign?

The idea came from one of my personal advocacies, having meaningful elections. As a former co-head of the Legal Network for Truthful Elections' (Lente) Networking and Mobilization Committees, and now a volunteer, I've seen how 'the opinion poor all their efforts in the electoral process. Everyone is a stakeholder in an election. This started as a personal art project that I planned to spread only online, mostly on my Facebook page. It's good to know that people I don't even know have seen and been appreciated their names of pictures.

What is your message?

The message is quite simple. I'm not the underprivileged, children, women and the elderly. What I'm trying to say is that when we vote, we should have a vision of what we want for our country and its people, and we should match our vote to this vision.

WHAT'S photos celebrate underprivileged children, women and the elderly (right), and suggest that voters should keep them in mind, too.

The caption "Vote for me" suggests that in choosing the candidates to vote for, we must keep in mind that we are voting for ideals, principles, interests, platforms, aspirations—and not for personalities. Some of the names represented in the photos are the underprivileged, children, women and the elderly. What I'm trying to say is that when we vote, we should have a vision of what we want for our country and its people, and we should match our vote to this vision.

We are bombarded with political campaign advertisements daily, and I just thought that there should be other things voters should be looking in. A wise voter should remember things other than the name in the face of a candidate. We must remember the state of our country, what we want to happen to the future, and vote accordingly.

What are your thoughts about the youth's importance and participation in the elections?

The youth should not be underestimated. We are everywhere. We'll be casting our votes. We'll be guarding the elections. We'll be working for politicians. We'll be working for political parties. We'll be working with electoral watchdogs. We will report abuses. We will file cases. We will be involved. No matter what form of participation we have, there is no doubt we are joining the ranks and we are taking over the country.

I think the youth's participation in the electoral process is essential in securing our future and that of the next generations. This is it. This is the Philippines we've inherited from our parents. They have done their part and, whether we like it or not, it's our turn.

So our participation in the coming elections is necessary for us to learn the ropes and, at the same time, for us take our place as stakeholders in this nation's progress.

How would you encourage students and the youth to vote and vote wisely?

I think it is important to remember that we are not voting for the candidates' or the previous generations' aspirations but for our own. After all, we will be the next line of taxpayers' slaughter is ours. Philippines, and this upcoming election might be your first step toward that.

Change this country through your ballot, your art, your work, your studies, your thesis, your recitation, your topic, your numbers, your books, your photographs, your voice—anything you can get your hands on.

Dear Mr. President-to-be

We, the youth, make up 62 percent of the total voting population. Hear us

By Francis Aquiling
Contributor

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT-TO-BE:

Some years ago, my friend members—students from various colleges (University of Asia and the Pacific, De La Salle University, and Mapúa Technological University)—embarked on a career-advancement campaign for our peers. We wanted to get people to vote ally think and study their votes.

Back then, there were no traditional political debates or interviews being aired that allowed voters to scrutinize the candidates' platforms in the back thereof. Now, we are pleased that media and other social institutions have taken a more proactive stance in providing education to voters.

Based on our amateur polls, 8 out of 10 said debates would still support the "Hari ng Mata" (Reap Rewards). For presidentials in the business district, the Cory magic has not all

Mother's Day AT SM CENTER PASIG

Tell Mom how much you love her by saying it with sweet treats or flowers, or with delightful gifts and indulgences. The best thing is that you can get all of these just around the neighborhood at SM Center Pasig.

GIFTS FOR Mom

Make Mom's favorite special today with **KONG**' Mother's Day cakes. Try its "Mother's Day Cake," a dairy-free strawberry fusion cake as well as the Mango Mousse cake (tasty mango and cheesecake cake), the Oatmeal Raspberry Cheesecake (irresistible crispy cake topped with mangoes). SM Center Pasig, tel. no. 656-7366

Your oldest cohort **bakeshop** the **HYPER MICHEL**'**BAKERY** has prepared more special treats for it's Day cakes. There's a rivalette yummy and not artisan strawberry cheesecake (₱70), the mouth-watering blueberry cheesecake (₱70), the sweet caramel cheesecake (₱70), the timeless cheesecake (₱68) and the tres leches cake (₱80). Not only ₱168, you can already get 3 new cakes. SM Center Pasig, tel. no. 654-6366 loc. 134

Ice cream cakes from **BAKE AND CHURN** are truly delightful and ideal gifts for Mother today. Try its strawberry cheesecake (₱630), bestseller chocolate mousse (₱530) and the truly delectable mango madness ice cream cake (₱490). SM Center Pasig, tel. no. 0917-8500010

Moms would revel all the luck in the world and what better way to get this back than by visiting **CHARMS & CRYSTALS**. Perfect gifts that would bring luck to Moms include Bai Quan Yuna with Babies (for family prosperity, health and peace), ₱1,200; white gemstone Buddha (for protection for illness and accidents), ₱680; and the prosperity bracelet (attract wealth, luck), ₱1,600. SM Center Pasig, tel. no. 706-5838

Our partner Mom with a bouquet of red roses and by simply visiting LBC and ordering a bouquet of flowers and have it delivered to your Mom. LBC Japan Town packages and money remittance, also offers flowers delivery service usage from ₱499 to ₱1,200s. SM Center Pasig, tel. no. (632) 6525007

Try a different approach to celebrating your Mom today by giving her a bouquet of balloons from **HELIA** balloons. Balloons arranged beautifully like flowers and to do Helia's special gift and enough to make Mom speechless. Balloon bouquets range from ₱600 to ₱800. SM Center Pasig, tel. no. 914-9855

Sweets are the sure way to lighten up Mom's moods and make her smile. **DUNKIN DONUTS** special treat for Mother's Day include the Disney Donuts, which are cute looking donuts that feature the faces of Tigger, Mickey and Pooh. Any order of the Disney Donuts entitles the buyer a free sticker as well as a chance to get a stuffed toy for free. SM Center Pasig, tel. no. 634-4462

Affordable skin care gifts for Moms include the Scapebuddies care products from Watsons. The **Scapebuddy BATTERS!** brand comprises of complete skin solutions that will make Mom's skin whitened. Lip balm (₱69), shower gel (₱259 and ₱150), shower cream (₱259 and ₱168), body lotion (₱119), body polish (₱168), and hand and nail cream (₱69). SM Center Pasig, tel. no. 633-6666

PAMPERING Mom

One way to de-stress Mom is by bringing her to **BIG APPLE EXPRESS SPA**, which offers enjoyable massage delivered the way you want it. Different types of full body massage range from ₱599 to ₱949 while foot massage and therapy range from ₱149 to ₱499. SM Pasig Center Pasig, tel. no. 756-3686

You could tell the state of your Mom just by looking at her hands and feet. Those loving hands and feet used to be pampered. Go and bring her to the **CALIFORNIA NAILS & DAY SPA**, which is the perfect place to make Mom's hands and feet pretty and dainty. Manicure and pedicure range from ₱399 to ₱450, hand and feet paraffin treatments cost from ₱169 to ₱190, while deluxe facial spa costs ₱219. SM Center Pasig, tel. no. 706-1000/ 533-8198

Make Mom's every bites fade away with skincare from **IT'S SKIN IT SALON**. Recommended skin care solutions include the anti-aging Slow Cell set of skin products (toner, facial wash, night and day cream), ₱1,050 and the Clear White skin products (toner, facial wash, night and day cream), ₱1,020. SM Center Pasig, tel. no. 706-7868

super LIFESTYLE

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PARTY LIST No. 67
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When my 'Gucci' jumped into the Eastwood fountain

And other lessons on where and how to bring your pets malling in this summer heat

By Tetch Yang
Lifestyle Editor

IN THE TWO YEARS I'VE HAD Gucci, my furry and incredibly fat chow-chow, I have known her to have only three modes: gobble, sleep and be drawn.

Lately, apart from having the newsroom hear myself, I have to mean have been really but outside because Gucci would exactly haul herself up the stairs to the air-conditioned room since she had finished eating in the kitchen.

It would usually take a little—more—to get her to go up the stairs. Another sure sign was her edging her end of my side of the bed until her belly sump, so she could tilt her face up to the air-conditioner's cool while panting like an excited phone person.

I felt really bad for Gucci and my other dog, Tank, that I decided to devote my week to looking for air-conditioned, pet-friendly establishments. I suddenly had the image of me in a flowy, summery sundress, me happily trotting dogs beside me, straight out of a feminine product advertisement.

Eastwood Mall

Our first adventure brought us to Eastwood Mall, which has always been very welcoming to pets... the first mall to let dogs actually roam the mall.

Other malls like Power Plant at Rockwell let dogs in but not walk inside; they must be carried or placed in a bag or stroller. I don't think I have enough upper body strength to carry around a 60-pound dog, nor will I be able to find a stroller big enough to fit Gucci. Maybe a wheelbarrow, but definitely not a stroller.

While Eastwood Mall's hallways and common areas are fair game to dogs, not all establishments inside are pet-friendly. Polly Booked, for example, does not let dogs in.

After a stressful ride up the escalator, we took the elevator (highly recommended, especially for furry dogs whose fur might get caught in the escalator) up to Starbucks to finally park ourselves and where I could start working. Unfortunately the barista turned us away, saying that dogs weren't allowed in, but that we were more than welcome to buy coffee and stay at the tables outside.

We left and went to look for another place inside Eastwood that would let us stay at a table and eat—with my dogs around. We ended up at Gastrogic, where the arbarian waitress gave us a table at the corner as long as I promise my dogs away from other diners.

I had no problem with that, and started to work until I discovered there was no Wi-Fi, and that sharp barks were annoying to a toddler's nervous ears. Tank started barking angrily at another small dog in an argyle sweater.

While I felt awkward Tank's outburst at the sight of a unseen-sized dog in this unforgivable heat, I felt mortified under the curious stares of the diners. I hurriedly paid the bill and left Gastrogic.

On the way to the A. Shop, we passed Eastwood's big fountain area, where Gucci, upon seeing the blue expanse of water, immediately jumped in. (And I thought Tank's cautious wee enough cause of shame.) Thankfully, no guards hauled us off to security and banned us for life. We just strolled up going home slightly damp and tired.

That was when I learned that dogs and shopping do not mix.

But... I didn't give up.

AT HUMMITS & Landes, you can eat yogurt and buy treats for your dogs, too.

Holmes & Landes

Barcharja High Street at The Fort was our next stop the next day. I didn't want Gucci and Tank to walk around so much on the hot pavements (dogs' paws are prone to painful burns), so I brought them to Holmes & Landes, where we were greeted by a blast of awesome air-conditioning.

After taking a look at the expensive dog products section, we ensconced ourselves comfortably by the benches and had frozen yogurt at Tub-gurt Frou (Gucci and Tank were not fans of the tart sour). Holmes & Landes was almost perfect. I could buy them dog treats from their selection and eat to whatever get—except, again, the lack of Wi-Fi made the event to-go-to.

We went back to High Street one days later, where I was determined to find the perfect hangout for myself and my furkids. Boarder's Best Ladies, Krispy Kreme and Friday's all had the same answer: No dogs allowed.

By this time, it was evening, frustrated and my stomach was growling, I trudged around my legs. So much for having this a happy-ad for fun-time pet-mom.

Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf

Our final stop was Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, which I expected the same "no-dogs-allowed inside" line from the mall. There was none. I had found it at last, an air-conditioned place that served people food, had Wi-Fi and allowed dogs inside.

The staff was friendly and accommodating and didn't even look annoyed when Gucci sprinted her water bowl over the floor and created a watery puddle. They just mopped it. And of my luxury finally did come true: I was able to work in peace while my two sufficiently tuckered-down dogs lay dutifully by my feet.

Mind your pet

TAKING YOUR DOG TO THE MALL? HERE ARE TIPS AND TRICKS TO make it enjoyable for the both of you.

1. Bring water for your dog. It's very important to keep your dog hydrated, even more so in this heat.

2. Have a plastic bag/zip handy for little accidents in on the back seat.

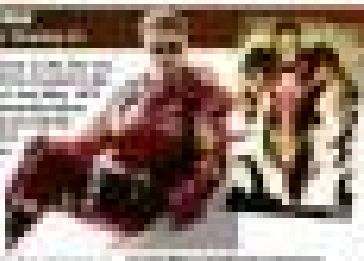
3. Keep them on a leash. Yes, your dogs are very friendly, but really, not all people are dog lovers and you have to respect their space, too.

4. Make sure their shots are up to date for their health since other dogs frequent the area, too.

5. Make sure they are sufficiently protected against ticks. Ticks are prevalent in summer and may carry serious diseases that can harm your dog.

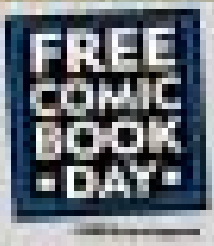
6. Avoid bringing them out when the sun is hard and intense. A good time to walk them would be around 6:30 p.m. onward. Otherwise, stay cool inside.

The man in the iron mask: Who's who in 'Iron Man 2'



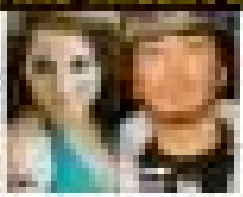
Watsony 'Play & Play' concert on May 15

More free comic books this May 22



Texts from last night: Do they? SHE no one remembers sending

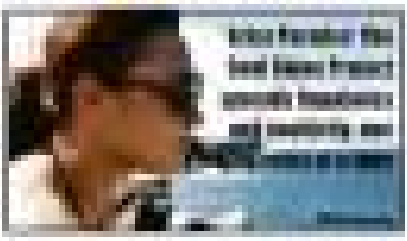
Your favorite '90s artists
all together in this massive music festival

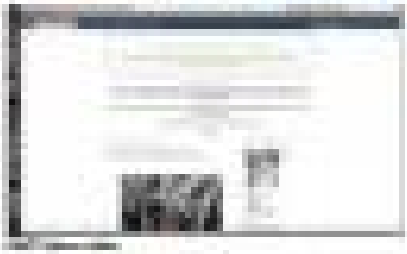


'Just woke up, don't know where I am and where car is in'

Best headphones ever?

Walking on Sunshine





Perfect Scents for Mom at Beauty by SM

Make Mom feel extra special on Mother's Day, May 9, with a gift of fragrance. And there's a lot of scent-sibility in selecting the right fragrance to suit Mom's personality.

Here, Beauty by SM shares with us a perfume perfect guide for Mother's Day. You'll have fun checking out these fragrances at the Beauty by SM section of SM Department Stores.

Vanessa Hardware combines the scent of a rare floral bouquet with fragrances of fruits from the Mediterranean, such as green mandarin and fig cactus. It evokes feelings of freshness and originality, as well as self-esteem and vitality.

Glam Moms

Moms will feel irresistible, sensual and ultra-feminine with Bvlgari's Bl+ Eau D'Ete scent of mint and tarocco, mixed down with notes of iris flowers and cinnamon.

Glam moms are ageless, always keeping up with beauty and fashion trends. They have a special way of looking young and modern with a sophisticated and elegant maturity.

You know you have a glamorous mom when you constantly raid her closet and find your friends swooning over her fashion sense. The ideal scent for her is a mix of fresh and floral scents like Versace Versense, Bvlgari Bl+ Eau D'Ete, and Flora by Gucci.

For elegant, classic and refined women, Marc by Marc has subtle and sophisticated floral scents of peony, rose and osmanthus.

Casually cool Moms

These moms are remarkably relaxed despite their multi-tasking schedules. They like to keep it cool and casual - whether they're off on a quick trip to the grocery or off to a bar, exciting getaway. Refreshing scents like Escada Marine Groove, D&G Light Blue, or David Off Cool Water are perfect gifts for her.

Davidoff Cool Water captures a woman's beauty and confidence with its fresh fragrance.

Sweet summer scents: Escada Marine Groove's compound of passionfruit, pomegranate and musk scents that will remind most of a holiday cruise.

Dolce & Gabbana Light Blue fuses rose, apple, musk and jasmine scents for a delicately feminine and fresh fragrance.

Feminine, vibrant and elegant, Burberry Sport Women is infused with scents of magnolia, honeysuckle, mate, cedar wood, mandarin, ginger and sea salt.

B.Intimate Jeans Woman by Benetton is a compound of red currant, tangerine, jasmine, lotus bulb, musk and amber scents for sporty moms.

Sporty Moms

Those are moms who like to keep fit and healthy, and can be seen working out at the gym, doing yoga exercises, or simply jogging or dancing. Their active lifestyle keeps them young and energetic, and scents like Burberry Sport, Benetton B. United Jeans, and Banana Republic W Perfume will keep them cool while on the go.

W Perfume by Banana Republic has a fresh, long-lasting scent, which makes it great for daily use.

Career-oriented Moms

These Moms are great at balancing family and work, and usually manage to be on top of their careers. Now it's your turn to indulge your mom with luxurious perfumes that exude her confidence and femininity like Rico Rico by Nina Ricci and Kenzo Amour Florale.

Rico Rico by Nina Ricci embodies optimism and self-confidence with scents of a floral bouquet and sandalwood.

Perfect for feminine folds: Kenzo Amour Florale blends scents of grapefruit, blackcurrant, frangipani blooms, rosebud and gardenia.

SUPER LIFESTYLE

By Aurelio S. Tayao

CHOCOLATES MAY be a cliché when it comes to Mother's Day gifts, but that's if you're planning on giving mom the usual, off-the-grocery-shelf box of sweets.

This year, put a twist to an oft-overdone staple gift idea by bringing her to Chocolate Fire, a new "chocolate deli" in Mall of Asia's central business district. If she's already a choco lover, she's sure to go gaga over the wide selection of Belgian chocolates.

"In a day we can have from 70 up to 200 varieties," says Ruby Purcell, Chocolate Concoisseur for Chocolate Fire. "It depends on what ingredients we have; we also like to experiment."

And for moms who aren't really too sweet—and, with all those chocolates, who can really resist?—the chocolates are arranged deli style, and can spread in a round trivet for customers to their pick off when they want. The chocolate come in slabs, bars, balls, pyramids, cones and other shapes you can think of, and are sold at around P80-P100 per 50 grams. Other creations, like the truffles, are reasonably sold on a per piece basis.

"Our master chocolatier wants fine chocolate to be affordable to everyone, without compromising on creativity, style and quality," says Purcell. Each creation comes in two varieties: milk and dark.

Passion

Imported from Melbourne, Australia, where the store first opened in 2006, Purcell says the essence of these confections perfect not to be identified. "We name Chocolate Fire so he always the chocolatier, not him," Purcell says.

"That's also why it's called 'Chocolate Fire'—the 'Fire' pertains to our passion for chocolates," she adds.

She says, however, that the master chocolatier is known as the "Picasso/Van Gogh" of chocolates in Australia, because of his unusual combinations. One of Chocolate Fire's bestsellers, for instance, is called Rich-Ar? Chili Bark, which has chili flakes mixed in with the chocolate chips.

There's also Chocolate-covered Pringles, Rocky Road (slabs of choco with loads of nuts, cherries and marshmallows), Macarons on the blue dipped in milk or dark, and Milk Truffles rolled in Dutch cocoa, coconut or Belgian shavings.

Others of our ingredients are imported, like the steamed grapes and figs (for their Dipped Giant Figs)," Purcell says. "But some varieties are also made up of local ingredients, like the Dipped Dried Mango."

Chocolate Fire also guarantees no chemicals in their chocolates; everything is pure and made fresh.

More than just a dessert place, Chocolate Fire also offers hot/cold chocolate drinks and coffee, as well as pastas, sandwiches and salads.

"The pastas are actually a new addition to the menu for this store, since Filipinos usually dine out in big groups," Purcell says.

And, of course, since it is Mother's Day, Chocolate Fire has prepared a special selection for moms to enjoy.

"The selections are all pretty for Mother's Day: There are lollipops, dipped strawberries, hearts with 'Happy Mother's Day' written on them," Purcell says.

Also, if you have special orders, Chocolate Fire would be happy to customize the chocolates' designs based on what you want.

"The chocolatier really just speaks for itself," adds Purcell.

Chocolate Fire is located at #SC9 Building, Levine St. cor. Pedro St., Sucat, Village, Makati City. Call 846-0788 or 0947-8.

CHOCOLATE Fire's Mother's Day selection

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- 2N hotel accommodation
- Roundtrip transfer (airport-hotel-airport)
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*Terms & conditions apply. Valid until August 31, 2010.

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FREE Child Tourist Day Pass of unlimited travel on MTR for the first 500 packages booked. Booking period is until June 30, 2010. The above packages & offer are exclusive to the participating agents listed below:

Ark Travel (02) 8158418, 8161899	Horizon Travel (02) 3061500, 3083366	Pan Pacific Travel Corp (02) 2438866, 5361285	Rajah Travel Corp (02) 5241275, 8040686
Rali Tours and Travel (02) 894-1213, 8941214	Skyrun Travel Corp (02) 4800613, 5211586	Sparkle Holidays (02) 3037251, 3037260	Uni-Orient Travel (02) 2433885, 8189585

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Disneyland

Hong Kong Tourism Board

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Mother's Day at Marriott Hotel Manila

INDULGE MOM THIS MOTHER'S Day with a weekend of special activities at Marriott Hotel Manila. From a day of health and wellness at Qiran Spa to sumptuous brunch in Marriott Cafe and a special lunch and dinner set menu in Cru Steakhouse, there is no better way to pay tribute to a mother.

Take her out for a night to remember

Mothering Cake for mom

CROWNE PLAZA GALLERIA MANILA HONORS mom this Mother's Day with a special treat – the Mothering Cake. Every mom will take home this iconic as they dine at seven Corners or Xin Yan Di Restaurant. This rich fruit cake with almond paste and filled fruits is England's traditional Mother's Day gift to home mothers on their special day.

Show how much you value your mom by treating her to a memorable lunch or dinner buffet from either Crown Corners Restaurant, for this occasion, the traditional English Mother's Day Cake will be the main highlight of Seven Corners' dessert station. A combination of this culinary dessert will also be given over to all members who will dine in either Seven Corners or Xin Yan Di.

Aside from the Mothering Cake, a special treat of all seven diners as they will also get to experience authentic Vietnamese Cuisine at Seven Corners. A spread of Vietnamese dishes prepared by chefs from Ho Chi Minh City will be offered in each of the six items.

Xin Yan Di, Crowne Plaza's premier restaurant will celebrate Mother's Day with delicious dishes set menus that boast of culinary masterpieces from Singapore, Hong Kong and China.

After an Asian gastronomic feast, surprise your mom with a relaxing and pampering retreat with Crowne Plaza's 2-in-1 promo exclusive here, time for rest-communicative nights any day of the week and get the third night for free for only P6,999++ inclusive of breakfast for two. Your mom would absolutely be pampered with Crowne Plaza's exceptional facilities such as the spa, gym, sauna and swimming pool. She can also take a short trip to the adjacent Robinson's Galleria Mall for shopping or a feel good 3D movie.

Give back to the greatest person in your life by giving her the treatment that she deserves only at Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila.

Advance reservations are recommended and are subject to room availability, and other hotel terms and conditions. For inquiries or reservations please call Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila at 633-7222 or e-mail at cpga.reservations@big.com.

A treat for mothers

HOTEL AND CASINO MANILA honors all mothers with a day of appreciation and celebration on May 9. Make them feel special and pamper her like a queen as she enjoys the dining and recreational outlets. Take advantage of exciting offers that promise more as generous extras are sent. What's more, a surprise gift awaits all mothers dining in the hotel's restaurants on this special day.

Mother's Day offers are endless array of mouthwatering specialties on Mother's Day 1st chef Jesse and her culinary team create mom's favorite dishes using only the freshest and finest ingredients prepared in la minute. Mother's Day Buffet P1,600 nett per person.

At La Ti, chef Andy masterfully prepares a banquet fit for any empress as he creates an royal feast with each episodic dishes as Roast Sparkling Fig and Barbecued Combination Platter, Deep-Fried Oolong Tea-Smoked Pigeon, and Wok-Fried Scallops and Shrimps with Vegetables. Mother's Day set menu P1,500 nett per person.

While at Shally's boutique, chef Adriano serves a lovely masterpiece for this special day. The Raspberry Cake with Strawberries is a perfect take-home gift for all mothers. This rich cake of soft vanilla sponge covered in fondant and decorated with raspberries and macaroons is a dessert she will truly love. Available from May 1 to 31. Regular cake P1,400 nett; small cake P800 nett.

Mothers are in for a special treat at the Spa at Chili Oasis. Let mom relax, reflect and rejuvenate with the Mother Day's Special consideration of a free spa, a hair spa and a foot treat with makeover treatment, all for only P1,500 nett.

As an added gift, all moms are entitled to a 15 percent discount on all à la carte spa services when dining in any of the restaurants from May 1 to 8.

For reservations, please call 269-1234.

A celebration for moms at The Richmonde Hotel

CHEAT, UNDERAGING MOMMIES, for moms on one special day, the Richmonde Hotel Ortigas is offering a Mother's Day package for one night. For all weekends of May (Friday, Saturday and Sunday check-ins), give mom a call. Be, second treat with a relaxing stay in any of Richmonde's comfortably cozy rooms, buffet breakfast for two (additional guests can be accommodated at P1,000 per head), plus a 15 percent discount on food and beverage orders at the Richmonde Grill and from room service. The Mother's Day room rates start at P3,800 net for an overnight stay in a deluxe room, P4,300 net for a junior suite, P5,300 net for a one-bedroom suite and P6,700 net for a two-bedroom suite. Extend mom's holiday to 2 or more nights and rates drop from as low as P3,500 nett for accommodations in a deluxe room. Visit www.richmonde.com.ph to see other room categories and rates or call 478-ACCR. For inquiries and reservations, call 838-7777 or call room reservations direct at 889-9211.

Dusit Thani Manila features Mom's Best Recipe Contest

LAST CALL FOR ALL COOKING MOTHERS! SEND IN YOUR BEST HOME-COOKED original recipes on or before April 30 and get the chance to win fabulous prizes from Dusit Thani Manila, Condé and Fynix, Cookworks, San Miguel Pure Foods and Amoi Publications. To join, send in your best home-cooked original recipe entries (it's an appetizer, main course or dessert with a short description of your special dish, a short story of how much your kids enjoy it, with a complete list of ingredients and step-by-step procedure, with a photo of your gastronomic masterpiece, and yourself with your loved kids. Interested participants must submit their entries in a brown envelope and properly label it with their full name, address and contact details and send it to: Dusit Thani Manila, Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City. Soft copies of entries may also be sent to dtm@dusit.com.

City Garden Hotel: Celebrate the love for moms

TOO CELEBRATE THE WORLD'S GREATEST MOMS, COME TO CITY GARDEN HOTEL in Makati for a night of fun-filled activities. For only P1,450+ per person on a twin sharing basis, this comfy family-getaway package includes breakfast with mom, lifetime membership to the hotel's fitness center, a free movie ticket to the newly released Mother's Day movie, and a free gift for mom. Enjoy the great food and other amenities at this destination spa. Then, surprise mom with a scrumptious dinner at City Garden Hotel's Le Jardin Restaurant. For the many months of May, families may enjoy the Chef's Special Mother's Day Set Menu for only P615+. Give moms the proper salute. Send in this once-a-year event with a City Garden Hotel's signature Garden Sunrise cocktail for only P349+ and a free City Garden Hotel coffee mug. Or open a bottle of wine, choose from the hotel's carefully-selected blend for mom at a special price of only P599 bottle. For inquiries and reservations, call the hotel reception at a call +632 888-1111.

Manila Pavilion Hotel pampers all moms

MANILA PAVILION HOTEL FESTIVAL | MOMS STAND OUT WITH FOCUSED FLEXIBILITY offerings and luxurious room packages replete with loving pampering and giveaways, to make their day extra special. Indulge moms in appetizing with a bountiful Mother's Day spread lunch or dinner buffet at the hotel's interactive lifestyle restaurant, Seasonal at P1,200 net. Sublime dishes for lunch and dinner await. The Restaurant's showmanship doesn't stop at P999 net. Feta or all-you-can-eat epicurean revelry offered for lunch and dinner at P800 net at Peony Garden, the hotel's fine dining Malaysian Cantonese restaurant. At Patisserie, Manila Pavilion's fresh-style pastry shop, delight moms with an Italian feast of pasta buffet offered daily except on weekends from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., beginning May 1 to 31 at P400+. Pamper moms with a relaxing treatment by booking with Manila Pavilion's spoilt for choice room packages starting at P5,000 net. Soothe her senses with Pavilion Deep Blue Adventure, Pavilion Advantage, and Pavilion Essence room packages offered until May 31. For inquiries and reservations, call (632) 526-1212 extension 2808 for food and beverage and call toll free at 1-800-10-MFHOTEL (800-4468) for room packages, or visit www.manilapavilionhotel.com.ph

Ultimate beer bash at G Hotel Manila

AS THE SUMMER SEASON SIZZLES WITH DELIGHT, G HOTEL MANILA PROVIDES more reasons to celebrate with its terrific lineup of offerings that promise a memo-

rable romp making her rewarding for you and your night out buddies. Set a lively mood with the sensational "Beer Galore" affair specially arrange on weekends. Relish every stimulating sip of three premium local beers for the price of two, or experience an incredibly exciting beer bonanza when you order five bottles of the featured local beer complemented by an appetizer platter with complimentary beer G. Hotel Manila. On weekends at the Mirage poolside, wind down with the hottest retro movie from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. until May 31 with "Weekend Rewind". A fantastic blast from the past awaits weekend partygoers with all-local beers at P80 net. G-Hotel Manila is located at 2000 Roxas Boulevard, Malate, Manila or visit www.g-hotel.com.ph. For inquiries and reservations, call 525-0888 extension 8702.

Burger King Restaurants beefs up the menu

FROM PEGGY BRAVO'S INC., THE OPERATOR OF HUNGRY KING RESTAURANTS, BEEFS up its menu with the new Spicy Chick'n Crisp sandwich. The Spicy Chick'n Crisp is made from a 100 percent white chicken fillet topped with garden fresh iceberg lettuce and creamy mayonnaise, all sandwiched in a freshly toasted sesame seed bun. "We made it just right so it's got just enough amount of spicy kick," said Christopher Poblador, marketing manager of PBR Restaurants Inc. "And at only P99 for a Value Meal with fries and drink," he adds. "It's also got just the right amount of price." The Spicy Chick'n Crisp will also be available in BBQ flavor in all outlets nationwide.

Golden Screw
Holiday Park Hotel Negros City
Hotel Alejandro
Hotel Ariana
Hotel Carolina
Hotel del Rio
Hotel Kimberly
Hotel La Corona de Oro
Hotel Veranda
Orchid Garden Suites
Orchid Hotel and Convention Center
Rempart Hotel
La Filipa Pipa Hotel & Restaurant
Hotel Concepcion
Hotel Elizabeth
Ivory Rooms
Jaime Bautista Hotel & Restaurant
Chateau de Baler Historical Boutique Hotel
Hotel Alejandro
Hotel Ariana
Hotel Carolina
Hotel del Rio
Hotel Kimberly
Hotel La Corona de Oro
Hotel Veranda
Orchid Garden Suites
Orchid Hotel and Convention Center
Rempart Hotel
La Filipa Pipa Hotel & Restaurant
Hotel Concepcion
Hotel Florencia Vibe
Hotel Gran Prix
Hotel Kimberly
Hotel La Corona de Oro
Hotel Veranda
Orchid Garden Suites
Orchid Hotel and Convention Center
Rempart Hotel
La Filipa Pipa Hotel & Restaurant
Hotel Concepcion
Hotel Elizabeth
Ivory Rooms
Jaime Bautista Hotel & Restaurant
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Hotel Alejandro
Hotel Ariana
Hotel Carolina
Hotel del Rio
Hotel Kimberly
Hotel La Corona de Oro
Hotel Veranda
Orchid Garden Suites
Orchid Hotel and Convention Center
Rempart Hotel
La Filipa Pipa Hotel & Restaurant
Hotel Concepcion
Hotel Florencia Vibe
Hotel Gran Prix

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A-LIFER — BY JOEL ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY ROLI JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEBANATS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PABUALAN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

TULOOKK — BY MARA COLL

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

KUBO MACHINE — BY MANNY ARRIEN

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's all about you today! Good for birthdays each. After all, it's your turn to exchange your best wishes and more. Have a great day! Make the most of this!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Work alone or control the scene. If you can, because you have a lot of planning to do. It's also best if you take it serially and carefully in order to avoid mistakes and confusion.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Talk to others about your dreams and hopes for the future. You might be surprised by how helpful their feedback will be. Have your week set now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Maybe you already have more than you need right now. Have you ordered? Furthermore, does no one demand? If you are offered increased responsibilities, accept. You'll do fine.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Some plans are evolving. You're very eager to broaden your horizons and start something new. You're a bit impatient, but you're also very creative and resourceful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Put together some detail about advertisements, calls, data, forms and anything that involves the wealth or earnings of your partner. Some things you've been putting off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with others. In doubt, this will allow you to learn more about how you relate to those who are relevant to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Do something to get better or get out of a boring end of work. Every time you feel something new, get rid of something else. Eliminate and innovate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a wonderful psychic day! Take a long walk. Carry maybe twice. Use a pencil or a marker. Keep it up and it works.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might want to participate in some or have family over today or tonight. Or you might be bored to spend some time alone at home. (You had other moments.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Consultations with relatives and siblings will be stimulating today. You have the talent to communicate to others because you want to enlighten people about something.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be alert for new ways to earn money. Associations with money-making ideas might also be opportune. You might come your way. Think about what it is that you really want that will make you happy.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com.

Concepts Sudoku — By Dan Feucht

		5		1	6			
					7			
		3				1		2
6	9							
4				8				5
						7		9
1		6				4		
				7				
				2	9			8

Difficulty level: ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

THE WORLD MADE CLOSE EVERYDAY

SATURDAY Special

Globe Ang Wais Mendel

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My Super TXT
My Super SURF

Sa plano ko, super close tayo.
Introducing the first and only personalized plan*

Globe
my SUPERPLAN
Lets you pick and mix the plans that suit you best

Family togetherness made happier with all-you-can calls, texts and surfing.

P948 P1,650 P2,148

SAMSUNG

FAMILY TIES

Her best friend is an Angel (Locsin)

By Rina P Avila

LUDWIG DAYCOCO

LOCSIN: Paying it forward

IF YOU TALK TO CLOSEUP "LAST" ILKO, it's not hard to imagine why she's Angel Locsin's best friend. Like the lovely actress, the 27-year-old model is as courteous as she is credulous. As they say, you are who your friends are—and Angel is an exception.

So, after Angel's now-accommodating manager, Ahwar Ethel Ramos, tipped us on where to get in touch with her (her cellfone's special occasional feature—in which Inside and About friends talk about the private lives of celebrities—we got Lani to take a break from the campaign trail (her father is Mayor Joji Ilio of Mabalacat, Pilipinas) to talk about the publicity-shy, Emmy-nominated actress, whom she met on the set of Vic Sotto's TV sitcom, "Daddy DiDaDa," in the early 2000s.

Long hours

Last month, Angel was just starting to show Sir Boss, and I was likewise dabbling in acting—though my father didn't approve of it. But, we got very close when I began working at the office of Tita Becky Aquila (Angel's former manager). My dad didn't like her before, so I had to take another job in Makati."

Angel hasn't changed much since her

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LOVE MOM MORE!
TODAY EVERYDAY!
DADS
The Ultimate Buffet
includes
KAMAYAN & SAISAKI
ONE FREE BUFFET
FREE AMENITIES
FISHY
Scrumptious Fishy Mother's Day Lunch & Dinner Buffet

GLITTERATI. Rhoda to go beyond her soap-sudden fame of looks and savvy packaging.

Radical challenge needed to stretch Ruffa's thespic reach

By Nestor U. Torre

RUFFA GUTIERREZ HAS ALWAYS BEEN admired for her stonewash good looks—but, as she proved time and time again beyond, it's clear that she needs to discover and develop more artistic planets than that.

That's why she has spun her performing career off in unusually inclusive TV hosting, talent show judging and product endorsements. Despite these side maneuvers, however, it's still as a dramatic and comedic actress that Ruffa will be judged, so her current four-episode engagement on TV5's "I Star Specials" provides an intensive showcase for her skills in this area.

Ruffa's first anthology episode last April 26 cast her as Dawn Legaspi's estranged wife, a once-beautiful woman who had allowed herself to go to pot, prompting her husband to find solace with a younger woman. Ruffa's look for the second half cleverly had her breast clearly sweat in it.

Makeover

Thank goodness, she even got a makeover from her best friend, and regained her self-confidence and upbeat view of life. In fact, she was so successful at rediscovering herself that her estranged husband fell in love with her again—admittedly right after their reunion-sex had taken its effect.

His problem, the fantasy interloper was soon to discover, was that Ruffa's character was a woman out of the picture, so here she returned four unused vats offered to have to do before the comedy episode's final fade.

The story's focus on commitment was well-done, but most of this episode's other elements came off as standard and even old hat.

The Stella Evora readers, while of necessity quite adequate in their basic, non-brave showdowns, despite the actors' best efforts to energize them decades old act.

Prospect

As for Ruffa herself, the two sins on the eyes and did as she was told, but she didn't really reveal her performance with previous of involvement and creativity. The one scene where to play the role mostly by being herself. That isn't a terrible prospect, but we've seen it all before.

If Ruffa really wants to make her mark in this new phase of her career, she should stop being so recklessly distant her professionals. Sis, she's very busy, and that's good for her, but she should still expand each assignment as a special event and challenge.

She should also stop bombing mostly on her leggy good looks and stylish cooking up. Blessed as she was to cause her timing, but over 20 years into a career, friendly, other plus points have to play a bigger role in an established actress' arsenal of skills.

Greater variety

Ruffa has tried to generate greater variety and interest as a TV host, but she needs to do even better: been mentoring. And... as a talent search judge, her comments and critiques have been safe and predictable, so genuine variety and vitality continue to elude her, at least for now.

What could turn the tide in Ruffa's favor? It could help if she formed up a truly challenging, thespic entrapment, under the mentorship of a great writer-director, that would push her thespic resources to the limit, beyond the cozy comfort zone of looks and savvy packaging.

Less than that radical challenge may not do the trick, and Ruffa may keep doing pretty much the same, old thing—until she ends up having even herself.

Nine artists perform in must-see show

THE "HERE & NOW" CONcert on May 15 at the SM Mall of Asia concert grounds gathers no less than nine intense, brand artists—in a single night.

Flying in from the United States are Jade, Diana King, Freddie J. Fattis Band, 1NE Jersey, 2WA All-4-One, TQ and Ty Burrell—and each artist will be performing his greatest hits.

The R&B quartet, All-4-One, is behind the revival of The Pursuit '93 classic, "So Much In Love," their 1994 chart-topping single, as well as a cover of the country diva, "I Swear."

Exhibit newcomer V. Factory has gained a solid following despite its lone hit single, "Love Struck." With their hip-hop-meets-R&B sound, they have something for everyone.

TQ (or Terrance Quinlan) began with The R&B group, Company of Age. In 1998, he released his solo album, "Westside," and, a year later, "Dirty Money" from the Tyrese film.

The New Jersey duo, Ill Dawx, is the multiplatinum selling R&B act formed by brothers, Aldrill and Jeanie Combs, in 1996. The pair's hits include "So Addi On Because Bliss," "I'll Do Anything For You" and "Getting Through Without You."

1NE is associated with the hits, "Its In Into You," "Right Here/Human Nature" and "Whole."

Diana brings us R&B, pop, rap and dancehall singer-songwriter whose debut album "Brighter Than Love," spawned "She Got The Follow-up Hit, Don't Nobody" and a story of the "Tin chatbuster by Bellz & Clarke Blair.

Jade is behind the hit singles, "Love Got Out" and "Baby It's You," making her the youngest solo artist with a No. 1 single in the U.S. Her second album, "The High Road," scored more hits, including "Too Little, Too Late" and "How To Touch A Girl."

American rapper, Baby Bash's first album, "The Smoker Playlist," included the hit singles "Suga Suga" and "Shorty Looking."

Freddie J is behind the hits, "Don't Wanna Try" and "In It To Speak."

Tickets are available at all Ticketnet and Ticketworld outlets, outlets Call 891-2708, or email info@ticketnet.com.ph.

MONTAGE

JOJO, TQ AND KENG. Sing their hits at SM Mall of Asia on May 15.

'Dora Saves the Crystal Kingdom'

Catch Nickelodeon's one-hour TV movie, "Dora Saves the Crystal Kingdom" at 8 a.m. on May 8. Join Dora the Explorer and her best friend, Boots, as they go off on an exciting storybook adventure. Also catch new episodes of "Dora the Explorer" weekdays at 10:30 a.m. beginning May 17.

Don't miss "The Penguins of Madagascar: Island's End" premiere every weekday his-filled episodes from May 10 to 28 at 6 p.m. Plus the premiere of the new movie, "Big Time Rush," about four 20-year old pop music hopefuls hoping to make it as stars in LA, at 5 p.m. on May 31.

'Members Only'

Wish online video premieres her

MYSTICA. Premiere her work.

most recent collection of music video set, inspired by her favorite movies at 8 p.m. on May 12, at The Next Entertainment Center, Global City Taguig.

'King Tut Unwrapped'

Discovery Channel's "King Tut Unwrapped" reveals for the first time the identity of the young Egyptian ruler's parents and grandparents, the cause of his death, and new details of his reign. The first part of the two-part documentary premieres at 9 p.m. on May 26. The second part will be telecast at 9 p.m. on May 27.

Songwriting tilt finalists

The Filipino Foundation has announced the finalists in its ongoing songwriting competition.

Shia category: "Chemo" by Bjoc Monterde, Gabriel Sevilla and Lily Monterde; "I Won't Feel Glad" by Arcilla Acuña, and "Love Has Been The Day" by Antonino Regalado and Adrienne Santiago-Buenaventura.

Novelty category: "Bloom" by Edwin Marcelino; "Love" by Kiina Cayabyab, and "Walang Kaduda-duda" by Irma Ortiz.

R & B: "Kaulo Gaspar" by Ge Ta; "Like I Invented You Before" by Louie Cuneta, and "Leaving Tomorrow" by Jim and Sarah Dacanay.

Rock: "Eleven" by Tee Arao, "Tayo Sa Ulan" by Ted Peters, and "Why Me Many Enjoy" by Rosalio Soriano. Finalists are on May 21 at SM North EDSA Skydome.

Presentation Mastery workshop

The Arnels Real Asia Speakers and Trainers Bureau will hold a two-day Presentation Mastery workshop, conducted by Dina Santos, on May 13-14 at the Bulacan Plaza, J. Pontos Extra, Ortigas Center.

The workshop enables participants to deliver engaging presentations through proven techniques that achieve positive results. Its supervisors, sales professionals, bank graduates or anybody who makes regular presentations to prospective clients. Call 891-7206, or email reswww@pricehill.net.

Movies on TV

DG HBO today at 1 p.m., "You've Got Mail" May 9 at 7 a.m., "El Mariachi," on Anselmo Sat., May 10 at 8 p.m., "The Bourning Nation," May 11 at 7 a.m., "Bridge" May 12 at 7 a.m., "The Gathering Storm," May 13 at 1 p.m., "13000 B.C." May 14 at 7:30 p.m., "Miss Valli Mission."

Mystica unveils new persona

The most controversial Filipina in the music body to unveil another aspect of her colorful persona—as a motivational speaker.

Mystica's teamings up with Fe no Solberg, said to be one of the most dynamic speakers and trainers in Norway, who will speak on "How To Be Self-Motivated for Life Through Goals," "How Positive Mental Attitude will Change Your Life For the Better" and "How to be Enthusiastic at Work and Enjoy Life."

Mystica will talk about "Success for Who?" Presents from the motivational seminar to be held this month at the City Garden Suites on Makati St., Ermita, Manila. Call/go to the Modern Foundation for more details.

Call: 318-1451, 09088 8817386, or log on to newscenter.com.ph.

Her best friend is an Angel (Locsin)

From page A1

dren with "Clark," Lani claims. "So personality wahing naghiwa-hiwalay. The only difference now is that she's become so famous we can't go walking anymore. When we go out these days, pili na ang mga lugar. Or, we bring out at home and watch DVDs. Angelina is homebody, she doesn't like going out a lot, though we've been going to her bas. Pool! Sir, mare-relax lately."

What are some things we don't know about Angel? Lani lets out a soft chuckle, "Si Angel kasi, may mga mga bagay yan eccentric. Dance, she pleaded. 'Gray [her puppy], that's one of endearments], 'sleep over ka dito sa bahay. When I got there, I couldn't find her anywhere! Tan pala, she was just in her customized bedroom with cabana set inside. Hello, inside the wire fences. Instruction, we have to be meticulous—maglalabas kami ng mattress and have a picnic there.

"Angel is thoughtful and affectionate. Hindi ka niya pabubayaan. Pag may nangyayari sa 'yo, iyon ang nangunguna—parang siya ka-protective. She doesn't like seeing her loved ones get hurt. When I asked her about this, she answered, 'Speaking membrary ng ibang tao, ako ang pinakamalaki sa lahat. Ang problema ko.' That touches me, noon—and I realized hard for pa' lesan ko talaga siya sa sobrang kamagalan na loob sa kanya.

"Truth is, she wants to pay it forward. She wants to help the children of Mindanao—which is why she joined Rissa Santiago in the Red Cross Mindoro Caravan to many, God wants to be a teacher. Once, she told me, 'Gray, let's take up education, be the kids! Then, we can put up our own preschool.' When I was recovering for three months, she brought cherished Quiapo from the balcony and set up. Yes, I swear to my Tita Nanay as saint, because she'd always been sweet like that. Sobrang sweet, hindi ka lalo will her again—substantively right after their reunion-sex had taken effect.

His problem, the fantasy interloper was soon to discover, was that Ruffa's character was a woman out of the picture, so here she returned four unused vats offered to have to do before the comedy episode's final fade.

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LANI (RIGHT), WITH HER BEST FRIEND. Inspire her.

doesn't talk about them."

What is Angel like when she's in love? Lani replies, "Hindi n'yo ma-imagine! Whew she's hyperactive, she keeps on... ma-...hahaha yun ah. Sa sobrang excited n'yo, pero hindi n'yo pinagkakaisip nangyari—hahaha yun ang nakakatawa sa kanya. Parang nag-break sila at kasi (Meanwhile), ilang months na ang kanyan, pero break pa rin sila at hiwalay sila?"

Is Angel the marrying kind? Lani chuckles, "When she was in her early 20s, one of Angel's goals was to get married by the time she reached 25. Ang nagsabi na ang planning 'yon nga-yon, thought ko—planning ng pasang! Now, she's just enjoying herself."

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2010 SATURDAY Special

Lou Veloso's risky gamble pays off

By Nestor U. Torre

VELOSO. Was Erlinda's Best Actress phone bar his character-assassin? "Colorum."

WHEN LOU VELOSO WAS tapped to play the lead in the indie road movie, "Colorum," his first impulse was to beg off. Since all, he was known as a comedian, while the part being offered to him was highly dramatic. What if viewers giggled in the end, the offing big, "all-out" breakdown scene? This could turn to do.

After thinking it over, however, Lou took a deep breath, decided to go out on a theatric limb, and accepted the assignment. And a good thing, too. The rest, as they say, is pop history.

In the months after "Colorum" was shot and screened, Lou's "breakout" dramatic portrayal of an old ex-convict holding to incredible emotional links to his long-lost relatives has been honored with at least three awards. The latest and most prestigious is the Urian Best Actor trophy that Lou won last week, which now stands prominently and proudly on his mantle.

Something new

We're thinking about Lou now not just to congratulate him, but to remind other actors that they too shouldn't give up on easy in their little corner of predictable roles, and that there's nothing like doing something new, risky and even scary to reinvigorate and revalidate a decades-long career.

We know what we're talking about, because we were present and all accounted for when Lou was cast in the first major character role he's ever had in any Filipino film: the late Ike Lozada's Nasty Playboy.

The play was the Tagalog classic, "Mga Alabok," and the lead players were Janet Basco, and, oh, yeah, Vilma Santos. Since Lou was a relative love, we joined Janet in showing him the ropes and encouraging him to give it his best shot. We liked Lou's approach to comedy, which was more no-frills than in-your-face dupetsky Lou was indeed a comic find.

Never we didn't like so much. However, was his tendency to "upstage." The theater term refers to actors who hold stage scenes to make a bigger impact on the audience.

In his defense, we can say that Lou did this quite without malice. He simply got carried away by his zeal for performing.

Big scene

Fine—but upstaged when used to "fight back," as we decided to teach Lou a "sweet" lesson. During his big scene, while he was (legitimately) holding stage center and slaying the audience with his comedic bravado, we passed Janet a dainty and visually fetching big tablecloth—like we were feeding a dog.

Our show and much-salient movements quickly caught viewers' eyes and their stifled giggling. Lou turned to see what the distraction was all about and saw what we were doing. Lesson learned, he never stopped us ever again.

In the succeeding years, we became good friends with Lou and even debuted him in a number of shows, like "Lucy" and "Magaling, mahusay, kahanga-hanga" at the CCP. When we took "Barbra ng Gayuma" on tour and performed it at the CCP Theater, we consider good Lou was so "connecting" with all sorts of viewers.

We know that awards simply affirm what we co-workers in the theater have known all along. Lou Veloso is truly an exceptional comedic and dramatic actor for all seasons and reasons. Total!

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Philten Mother's Day Promo | May 7-31, 2010

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Philten Ageless Necklace 3.5% 100 Caps P 5,360.00

Balsam Leather Bracelets P 995.00

Health Packs

+1 P 1,995.00 +2 P 3,695.00 +3 P 1,995.00

+4 P 2,395.00 +5 P 3,295.00

Family Packs

P 5,895.00 P 7,195.00

Philten

ARANETA CENTER CELEBRATES MOMS ON MAY 9

God could not be everywhere, so He created mothers.

—Jewish Proverb

This Mother's Day, Araneta Center celebrates God's greatest gift to men, our mothers, with a whole day of pampering activities and yummy treats at Gateway and SM Mall.

Make your mom feel better! Treat her with nail and skin care services from Posh Nails and Skinstudio, Make-up Clinic by Aromatherapy Salon, and hair care and styling tips from Rustic's Salon for the ultimate activities at SM Mall in Mother's Day. Likewise, meanwhile, with show moms how to keep looking young with a Complete Skin Care Demo for Skin Doctors of Ramon.

In the afternoon, mimes from clark from Pipino, The Old Spaghetti House, and the newly-opened French Baker perfects members of the Asiatop Center of the Arts del Mall to create their respective interpretations of Mother's Day.

At Gateway, chefs from Kuya, Sachi, Pizza Hut Pasta, and Elena Mart impress spectators with their cooking skills as they create signature dishes from their own restaurants. A Cook-Off between the country's Ms. Filipino beauties will surely excite the audience at both the Mall and Gateway as they divide and conquer with their books but with their culinary skills as well. The Iron Lady Cook-Off will test the ladies' positioning as well as cooking skills as they are asked to plan their menu around one secret ingredient and shop for their own ingredients in either Farmer's Market, Ramon's Fresh, or Shoprite. Take advantage of various goodies on sale as you enjoy the many activities and gift shows made available for Mom on her special day.

To top the special day, Araneta Center restaurants also offer special treats for Mama! Avail of festive and delightful treats for minimum food purchases at select restaurants, cafés and kiosks around the center's one-stop leisure hub. Café Adriatico gives away free bags to queens for a minimum food purchase of P1,000, while The Dutch Baker at the SkyWalk of New SM Mall treats moms to Cookie Bags for every P1,000 food bill. Cibo treats moms with free crepes for every P2,000 food purchase, Pizza Hut gives away free bags for every P800 minimum food purchase, while Mario Nardo dining is treats to free chocolates.

Through the years, our moms have always strived to give us the best. This Mother's Day, celebrate Mom by treating her to the best. Bring her to Araneta Center.

For inquiries about this and other Mom events, log on to www.aranetacenter.com.

"Happy Mother's Day" means more
Than have a happy day

Within those words lie a lot of things
We never get to say

It means I care about you first of all
Then thanks for all you do

It means you mean the world to me
And that I will never stop loving you

Mother's Day
Means More at Araneta Center

Mommy Makeover

Pamper mom on her big day with a beauty getaway! Get the latest tips on make-up, hair styling, skin and nail care, and many more.

Mom's Cooking

Watch and learn while chefs of the best restaurants in Araneta Center take you on a culinary journey! Exchange recipes with Ms. Filipinas favorites and their moms.

Starts 10am onwards

May 9 is Mother's Day

Dine, shop & get special treats this Mother's day

Dining

Cafe Adriatico · Cibo · Dutch Baker · Gerard's · Gloria Maris · Kuya · Pizza Hut · Sachi · Shakey's · Tokyo Tokyo · Yakyniku Boy · Elena Mart · Fresh Baker · Francisco Rosas · Mario Nardo · Pizza Hut · Robinsons · Sagpo's Grill · Shakey's · Wendy's · Yakyniku Boy · Yellow Cab · Superbowl of China

Shopping

Shoprite · Rustic's Salon · Aromatherapy Salon · Unisex Palace · Washington · Wilcon · Sky Diamond · Mode & Ignorance · Grandeur · Robinsons Supermarket · Landmark · Rustan's · Expands · Servitus · Posh Nails · Amazing Touch · Skinstudio

Participating Malls: Gateway • SM Mall

Farmers Plaza • Farmers Market • Araneta Coliseum • UN • Shopwise • Cyberpark • Supercentre • Montalban Garden City coming!

All About Mom at SM

Kids can make it extra special for Mom this Mother's Day by expressing their love in statement tees from SM. Exclusively available at the Children's Wear section of the SM Department Store, these colorful tees are the tees to wear this Mother's Day. And their heartfelt messages will surely bring a big smile to Mom's face.

What Mom means to me

Moms and little girls have that special bond, and they can tell the whole world what Mom means to them with these cute statements tees. All tees available at SM

Mom as BFF

Her Love is Priceless

Kids Model

Mom is my Special Angel

Messages for mom

Wear your love for mom with these witty and heartfelt messages. Available at the Children's Wear Department of all SM stores.

Born Luckiest

Mom's the Best

Simply I Love You

Mommy's little boy

Boys can join their sisters in telling mom how much they love them with cool statement tees that will make her love and laugh. Available exclusively at the SM Department Store.

Laging me-Comb Down

Who's the Boss?

All that Love

SATURDAY Special

What now, KC Concepcion?

By Nestor U. Torre

CONCEPCION. He sang to treat a princess.

WHEN SHOW BIZ "PRINCESS" KC Concepcion finally decided to heed the call of her performing genes and enter the field that had made her parents, Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion, famous, her decision made perfect psychic sense.

After all, she had been training for it for years, taking up all sorts of lessons and workshops designed to hone her talent and not, but apparel, so that she would be good and ready when the finally made up her mind to look in the water, familiar glow of the show biz spotlight.

On the other hand, while stardom had gifted her mom, Sharon, with so much, it had also made her keen of the potentially negative effects of stardom on her children, especially on her echo boomie, KC. Been there, suffered that—and she certainly didn't want KC to be similarly here and used.

Heiress apparent

That prompted Sharon to keep her between-appearance away from the show biz scene—although KC did a lot of product endorsements that kept her in the public eye in a big way, while filling her piggy bank to plump, precious fullness.

When KC did decide to "go show biz" a few years ago, she made a big splash with an ex-

tended stellar sweetness. That's simply no way to treat a princess.

Others may believe that KC's show biz "royalty" is a myth, a fantasy that has little worth in the real world. But, let's put it this way: Aside from KC, which other young star today has stellar parents as big as Sharon and Gabby?

—We rest our case.

That's why KC shouldn't be handled like other "nonroyal" young stars, and should be given more unique projects to enable her to truly come into her own as the crowded show biz scene.

What sort of projects? Definitely not another standard TV drama-comedy series or bonbon concoction consuming her with a cutesy-but-limited screen concern. How can KC really fly if her cocoon pulls her down?

So, what could really work for her? The movie vehicle her dad, Gabby, could work, except that he would, as usual, be leaning on his Pinbugz, it could do the trick if it were correlated to give both of them really difficult and complex acting challenges, in which we could clearly see the Concepcion thespic genes in full display.

Musical numbers

Much more exciting is KC's planned movie with Sharon, which we hope will turn out to be a full-throttle musical-drama-comedy with lots of original musical numbers woven organically into its story. The "score" from a movie, and later on, a teleserye. Most of those stellar gambits were successful, but the feeling soon emerged that KC wasn't coming into her own as a show biz luminary as much as she should have.

The big disconnect was the fact that she was being built up like many other female stars her age. What was so wrong with that? Unlike them, KC was already a star once, before she officially joined the biz, so she shouldn't have been given the musical soundtrack, please!

Viewers and listeners need to see Sharon musically and thespically "bequeathing" her stellar stellar and performing oozes to her gifted daughter.

Also exciting would be an original Filipino musical for KC. Another concert? Possibly—but, only if KC sings and dances up a storm in it.

The thing for KC is not to do what her competition is already doing, but to keep them at bay by coming up with original concepts and performing challenges that they simply can't pull off as well. That's a tall order, but show biz "royalty" deserves nothing less.

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GALLERIA

1 IRON MAN 2	6 IRON MAN 2 (3D)
2 IRON MAN 2	7 IRON MAN 2
3 IRON MAN 2	8 MORNING GIRLS
4 THE BOUNTY HUNTER	9 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
5 IRON MAN 2	10 FURRY VENGEANCE

MANILA | **METRO EAST**

1 IRON MAN 2	1 IRON MAN 2
2 IRON MAN 2	2 IRON MAN 2
3 IRON MAN 2 (3D)	3 IRON MAN 2
4 FURRY VENGEANCE	4 IRON MAN 2
5 IRON MAN 2	5 THE BOUNTY HUNTER
6 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING	6 MORNING GIRLS
7 THE BOUNTY HUNTER	7 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
	8 FURRY VENGEANCE

NOVALICHES | **FORUM ROBINSONS**

1 IRON MAN 2	1 IRON MAN 2
2 THE BOUNTY HUNTER	2 IRON MAN 2
3 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING	3 FURRY VENGEANCE
4 FURRY VENGEANCE	4 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING

STA. ROSA | **LIPA**

1 IRON MAN 2	1 DATE NIGHT
2 IRON MAN 2	2 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
3 DAWN OF A BRIGHT YOU	3 IRON MAN 2
4 THE BOUNTY HUNTER	4 IRON MAN 2
5 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING	

DASMARINAS | **STARMILLS**

1 THE BOUNTY HUNTER	1 IRON MAN 2
2 IRON MAN 2	2 MORNING GIRLS
3 IRON MAN 2	3 IRON MAN 2
4 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING	4 THE BOUNTY HUNTER
	5 IRON MAN 2
	6 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING

IMUS | **ANGELES**

1 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING	1 INFESTATION
2 IRON MAN 2	2 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
3 IRON MAN 2	3 THE BOUNTY HUNTER
4 THE BOUNTY HUNTER	4 IRON MAN 2

TAGUIGAN | **BUNAGUEYT**

1 IRON MAN 2	1 IRON MAN 2
2 IRON MAN 2	2 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
3 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING	3 IRON MAN 2

BACOLOD | **ILOILO**

1 IRON MAN 2	1 IRON MAN 2
2 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING	2 IRON MAN 2
3 THE BOUNTY HUNTER	3 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
4 IRON MAN 2	4 IRON MAN 2
5 IRON MAN 2	5 THE BOUNTY HUNTER
6 LOVE YOU, PHILLIP MORRIS	6 THE LOSERS

DENSAN

1 IRON MAN 2
2 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
3 THE BACK-UP PLAN
4 IRON MAN 2

LEGAZPI NORTE

1 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
2 IRON MAN 2
3 IRON MAN 2

Ma-Yi Theater Company wins 2010 Drama Desk Award

TONY AND DRAMA Desk Award-winning actors, Brian Tinder Mitchell ("Ragtime," "Man Liar"), announced of La Mancha") and Cady Hoffman ("The Producers," "Will Rogers' Ziegfeld") announced the nominations for the 54th annual Drama Desk Awards last May 3 at the New York Fe- are Club.

Each year, the Drama Desk bestows special awards to recognize excellence

ORTEGA: Executive director of acclaimed Asian-American theater group.

and significant contributions to the theater. This year, it has chosen to honor the Ma-Yi Theater company for "more than two decades of excellence, and for nurturing Asian-American voices in stylistically varied and engaging theater."

Among those receiving special awards are Jerry Herman, the man of Hurrah Society's "Pinkville," "Hunter Company."

Ma-Yi was previously nominated for a Best Play Drama Desk Award for its production of Wallace Leight's "Six Feet Apart Beyond This Point."

Excellence

The Drama Desk is an organization of theater critics, writers and editors that honors excellence in all areas of New York theater, broadway, Off-Broadway, Off-Off-Broadway and not-for-profit.

This year's notable theater honorees include Sutcliffe and Ellis's "The Sometimes Boys," as well as the Broadway revival of "Ragtime."

Ma-Yi is an Obie award-winning company, and one of the country's leading incubators of new Asian-American plays. Some of its notable productions include Ralph Peña's "Filipinolas," Han Ong's "Middle Finger," Lorena Carbo's "The Romance of Magno Rubio," Lloyd Suh's "American Hwangap," and Michelle Tea and Sapphire's "Rent Me."

Ma-Yi is led by its executive director Jorge Z. Ortiz, artistic director Ralph B. Peña, and associate producing director Sandra Delo.

Gokey, Castro shine...

Passage 6A

while "Love Unconditional" whose fame to show off his distinctive talent. It also put him in a less-than-flattering light when he swore he "didn't to Mr" begins blandly, then gains momentum when he flies it ends.

Three relative singer-songwriters, Jessica Hyden, lends her smokey vocals when she plays Cassie in "You Can Always Count Stone," which tells about a love that never was. "I know it barely existed, but I fully believe the could have been the one for me." I miss what we could have done/. And I miss what we might have had."

Leadership, in Confucius' words

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

SOME THOUGHTS ON leadership from the ancient philosopher, Confucius:

- People are obedient to the ruler who promotes the righteous and condemns the evil.
- He who governs by example is like the Pole Star—it rests in place while other stars revolve around it.
- By rules is meant measures that guide the mind not by violations that startle like a wound to the flesh; a mind-gust, indeed.
- Men must be taxed in millions of government, as the earth is keen on making things grow.

Lions and liars

- Shun Yu was always prepared to listen and learn. He wasn't ashamed to consult his subjects, he even sought the advice of lesser men. Hence, when he died, he was called "The Learned One."
- A man who sets his heart on doing good will be unmolested from evil.
- If you're true, you will know Heaven, others for good people in your village will like you, while all the bad ones will hate you.
- A gentleman will eat when such good deeds and may run out of noodles. A petty man will do the opposite.
- A gentleman will help you in a state trapped in a well, but he won't jump in himself. He's not perfect, but he isn't stupid, either.
- Beasts are harder to know than persons.
- It's a disgrace for a gentleman's words to be greater than his deeds.
- Happy contentment with justice, injury intrigue with riches.
- A great state is feared on himself; a small state is feared on others.
- A wise man never trusts more appearances.
- An orchid has a serene balance to the gentleman. When he cannot be much, he cares the more for his field as to himself.
- Send a true letter flavored with the study of character. Write with wisdom, and keep the fruits of good governance!

Gokey, Castro shine in innovative fusion of diverse musical genres

By Rhea B. Avila

FOR MANY YEARS NOW, THERE was Idol" has been exerting our support who had that can against the dominant rap and hip-hop crowd on the recording scene.

This week, Billboard announced that Kelly Clarkson, the first American Idol, is still the most successful alumnus of the popular talent search, with 15.6 million albums, 15.8 million singles, and 4.3 million audio matches to her name.

Trailing closely behind her is Carrie Underwood. Season Four's top runners with 13.9 million singles, 2.4 million subscribers,—and with more albums sold, at 11.5 million (ironically, the "Idol" graduate following in their fourth debut) on a roll for the bands: Clara Josephine, who has sold 6.7 million albums so far.

The debut albums of Season Eight's third place Danny Gokey ("My Best Days"), and Season Seventy Top Four, Jason Castro ("The Love Recommended" EP), haven't sold as many (yet, but they're not really expecting numbers that are across smooth grooves and headers.

Gokey's hefty "My Best Days" is a pleasant surprise. We're not big on country music, but this album's eclectic fusion of country pop and rock is anchored by the singer's sturdy vocalizations and blue-collar grit.

GOKEY. Raspy-unbalanced and blue-collar grit.

CASTRO. His voice is a perfect foil for his melodies.

Interplay

"Like That" is a Bad Thing" displays an effecting acoustance and guitar-and instrumentation of English electronic, Glenn Perry's resonant vocals in "You Belong to the City." The lucky interplay of strings and Gokey's voice, as well as the blues instrumentation of "It Immobody" and the heavy fiddle-backed "Life on It" will also win you over.

With the exception of the unfortunately mediocre "Stop Takes A Whisel," Gokey's featured tracks are absolutely just. Utilizing a velvet-smooth tenor, "Stand By Me" sets a quiet, stand-candle-lit-dinner mood. Those seamless shifts to falsetto and his spirited wrap-up in "You Are So Beautiful" are truly considerable. "Endless Love" is sung like a soothing lullaby.

In "Inner Little Secret," he channels Michael McDonald with his unique brand of bluey-eyed soul and smoke. And, he infuses his remake of Earth, Wind and Fire's "Serpentine" with an infectious vibe that will have you bobbing and grooving along.

But, it's in the rhythmic "Time Like," the contemplative "Crazy Like Us," and the jaw-dropping "I Will Box Any Shoulder" where Gokey's sturdy vocal facility is showcased at its finest.

Signature locks

The 23-year-old Jason matches his dreamy looks and signature locks with radio-friendly, pop-rock vocal chops that come as a perfect foil for his sugar-coated lyrics—which isn't wrong. Boy sound good. In demonstrates, you're the rhythmic hooks and innovative wheeling in "Let's Just Fall In Love Again"—simply too cute to resist.

The groove abounds in dreamy and strings beautifully contrast in the ballad, "The Heart of Music," a sweet new addition to the undeniable hits popular used to the lilting beats of Jason Mraz's intimate love songs. But, the guitar-driven "That's What I'm Here For," which conveys a more emotional feel despite its dreamier, upbeat arrangement, ends a little too soon.

The country-like "Closer" has an unmistakable melody and...

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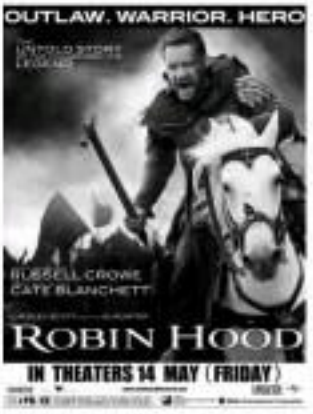

RINNAI LAUNCHING AT SM HOMEWORLD

Chef Roland Laudico and wife chef Jacqueline.

Mabuhays recently had a glimpse of state of the art tabletop cooking when Rinnai, the leader in Japanese gas appliances, launched its latest line at SM Homeworld at SM Megamall's Mega Atrium.

Mitsui Industrie Corp. President Roger Chuatoan, Rinnai's exclusive distributor in the Philippines graced the event together with Hidetaka Ogiso, Managing Director and VP of PT Rinnai Indonesia; Hisashi Akioka, General Manager of Denki Shoji Company, LTD.; and Kazuyasu Tsuda, Vice President of Electric Marketing Corporation.

Storing the program hosted by Tessi Bersola, celebrity chef Roland Laudico and his wife Jacqueline demonstrated the versatility of cooking with Rinnai tabletop cookware as they whipped up Filipino-Japanese-fusion recipes.

Chef Roland showed guests why his San Miguel Shrimp Tempura Bites that beat in Rinnai's 5138 tabletop cookware, and why his Beef Kulitsa in Calamansi Soy simmered best on a Rinnai RI-662B stove. Chef Jacqueline, on the other hand, cooked her Pistisan with Seven Acorn Beans using a Rinnai RI-322-AT stove with a brew.

The Rinnai tabletop cookware collection is available at the Homeworld Department of all SM stores.

Denki Shoji Company Ltd. Japan General Manager Hideaki Akioka, PT Rinnai Indonesia VP & Managing Director Hidetaka Ogiso and Electric Marketing Corp. VP Kazuyasu Tsuda.

Universal Stainless Manufacturing Co., Inc. Managing Director Alex Chuatoan with Constant Packaging Corp. President William Chua and GM Wilbur Chan.

Dharmyn Edward Qua with Paola Joshua Qua, Yangki Rogas of Wholeblossom Essence Company Ltd. Inc. and Kristin Subramaniam of Quickly.

Mitsui Industrie Corp. President Roger Chuatoan and wife Nancy are star exclusive distributor of Rinnai in the Philippines.

TV personality and host Tim Yap Bersola.

TV personality Dimples Romana and Angel Jacob.

Homestyle Magazine Editor-in-Chief Jeff Ildefo.

COOKING UP WITH SM HOMEWORLD AND RINNAI
or Why the Flame Makes All the Difference

Rinnai, the leader in Japanese gas appliances, brings the latest innovations in tabletop cookware to Manila with its new line at SM Homeworld.

Established in 1920, Rinnai enjoys a leading position in the industry with its high quality tabletop cookware and gas stoves. It has a range of burners to match one's cooking style and uses advanced burner technology that produces a more efficient blue flame and saves on gas.

"When a burner's flame is blue, that means it is clean," says Chef Roland Laudico. "It gives out a hotter, higher temperature, making it cook and energy-efficient."

And the flame makes all the difference. The flame of each Rinnai stoves stands strong against the wind and does not extinguish even on a 5m per second wind. It does not settle dirt and when swept, and liquids overflow while cooking. This is made possible by a specially designed burner head cap that protects the flame from overflowing.

Rinnai stoves are sturdy and durable enough to carry a 50 kilogram weight load per burner, making it perfect for home, outdoor cooking, catering, and restaurant use.

Going the green way, Rinnai tabletops are also energy efficient, both its Small and Big Burners have a low CO gas emission, and a heat efficiency that's better than the Japanese Industrial Standard. The company has also obtained both the ISO 9001, the International Standard for Quality Control, and the ISO 14001, the International Standard for the Environmental Management System.

Get a Rinnai model to suit your cooking style and avail of a 20% discount until May 31 at the Homeworld Department of all SM stores.

WHY RINNAI ROCKS

Chefs Roland and Jacqueline Laudico demonstrated Rinnai cookware's strength and innovative features during the event. And yes, here's why Rinnai rocks.

Rinnai cannon can carry a load of 50 kilos per burner, making it perfect for outdoor cooking, for canning, and other occasions.

The flame of each Rinnai stove can withstand strong winds.

Chef Jacqueline Laudico cooked her Pistisan with Seven Acorn Beans with a Rinnai RI-322-AT stove, which has a silicone stove that seals the simmering water.

Chef Roland Laudico showcases how the Beef stew that he cooked in Calamansi Soy Sauce using RI-662-B which a portion for Caribbean Big bowl and roasting vegetables.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Leo Velose's risky gamble pays off /G3

SATURDAY Special

No disasters from the master this time around

Undated

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Andrew E. Tejada

BERLIN—Roland Emmerich is directing something totally different from his disaster epics in this city's Babelsberg Studio, where actors from Matthew Devitch to Brad Pitt made movies. The film is "Anonymous," a political thriller about the theory that the works of William Shakespeare might have been written by Edward de Vere, the Earl of Oxford.

But, despite the fact that not to tackle one of the film's major sets, a huge replica of the Globe Theater as it might have looked during Shakespeare's time, a journalist asked Roland during our press run with him if an earthquake might happen at some point in the movie.

Directing career

"I didn't begin my directing career with disaster movies," Roland replied with a smile as he addressed the journalists who were seated in four rows, earlier in the afternoon, and we applauded a play cut by a scene. Roland was seated in the middle of the stage, flanked by his cast, led by the actresses Vanessa Redgrave, who plays Queen Elizabeth, I, lighted candles and a wide golden glow on everyone. "I like disaster flicks, but I also love movies like this one," he added. "I'm very proud to make this movie the way I want to do it, and with the actors I want."

Other performers include Emmerich's real-life daughter, Jeeby Richardson, who plays the young Elizabeth; Rhys Ifans, as Earl of Oxford; David Thewlis, who is Professor Remus Lupin in the "Harry Potter" movies, as William Cecil, the Queen's chief advisor; Rafe Spall as Shakespeare; Xavier Samuel, as Southampton, an Earl to whom Shakespeare dedicated some of his poems, and Mark Rylance, as Ghostwriter, a Globe Theater actor. Xavier didn't attend the press run, but screenwriter John Orloff did.

Political thriller

Since the period is 16th century, see "2012," Roland presented a fascinating look at a bygone era. "I will portray a society that is no longer to us in the one in Persia," he disclosed. "It will be on in your first political thriller."

Asked why he chose to shoot in his native Germany and not in the UK, the setting of this who-really-wrote-it film, Roland answered, "This is like a homecoming to me. I remember that it has been 20 years since I shot a film in Germany. And I've always wanted to make a movie in Babelsberg."

The wonderful question inspired a thoughtful discussion about creativity and

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BIG DAYS. Portrays Queen Elizabeth in Emmerich's "Anonymous."

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It's anybody's guess on 'American Idol 9' outcome

By Nestor G. Torre

FOR ALMOST 10 YEARS NOW, we've vetted the results of the "American Idol" talent rib with a heartening level of success. We correctly "predicted" Fantasia Barrino's victory, for one thing. Ditto for Clay Aiken and Underwood, Jordin Sparks and Taylor Hicks.

This year, however, we're finally throwing in the towel and getting rid of our fortune teller's ball as a fire sale. Quite frankly, the softy-ideal way that the season-edition of "Idol" has been progressing—or seem-grossing...has got us stumped!

BOWERSOX. The only female survivor among the talent awards's four remaining finalists.

Male counterparts

Early on, we saw that the current all-female finalist roster were too-steadily gifted than their male counterparts—by a color! Very quickly, we somewhat guessed that the talented likes of Crystal Bowersox and Siobhan Magnus would survive at least until the competition's final seven. Other outstanding female finalists like Katie Stevens and Didi Benami also proved to be standouts...and survivors—in the competition.

Alas, Didi must get axed...and, most surprisingly, as did Katie. At the same time, male foes like Aaron Kelly and Lee Dewyze held on for dear life from week to week.

The biggest shocker comes two weeks ago, when Contestant Siobhan Magnus sends Lou Gaga's Bad Romance and sang her own song—in her characteristic really bizarre-o fashion.

Per fully expected Siobhan zoomed up right up there among the top three...and even top one...in the site's "final-finals." So, for her to be prematurely shot down so early was a rude awakening to the fact that, without our quite knowing it, the paramount of the competition have changed.

Fans and viewers voters are no longer as consistent in their decisions as they used to be, and second-guessing their collective "wisdom" has become a field fraught with mixed feedbacks and other disjointing shockwaves.

This now being the lay of the land, we're quitting while we're behind—and mystifying all, resigned to simply chronicling the carpenter-ial ear wrinkles as they continue to jolt up, one on top of the skilled other.

The big seismic shift's may have been initially perceivable three years ago, when the self-and-

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Chemistry fuels Marian and Dingdong's reversals-of-fortune rom-com

By Rito P. Asilo

SOMETIMES, WE DON'T HAVE high hopes for Mark Reyes' "You to Me Are Everything." After all, very few rom-coms these days live up to the dissolute hope that preceded them. If it hasn't screwed up royally enough to make you groan, provoke shoulder-heaving prayer on a movie before they've struck.

While the film is not perfect, Marian Rivera and Dingdong Dantes' reversals-of-fortune rom-com for two things going for it: its lead-is indubitable opposites-attract chemistry and its perfect casting.

Primitive Carmina Villarroel and Rafael Diego Herrera II (Dantes) can't be more different—she's an ignorant maiden who's content with her life catering for her pig uncle; he's an polishing archaeology jock in training in Japan, bouquet, and he's the blandest social set's mamma-ever sees, who thrives in his non-exotic life in the fast lane.

It's the best and worst of times for Isha and Rafael, respectively, when they finally cross paths...but, upside down for While the former finds herself relocating the cool because of her estranged lyoco father, the latter is left grasping for scraps of his lax acquisitorial-fed a found guilty of conspiracy.

Lavish exercises

Isha may be too loud-mouthed and plays for Rafael's nuts, but she's also creative and spunkier than she appears—and she knows what she's up against. To find a quick fix for her family's end-of-month situation, Isha hires her dashing new "sosyal celebrity"—who used to own the Jewish mansion she now lives in...on her business manager. Rafael sees the offer...as well as his own employer's millions—as a way out of the dire financial straits he's in.

As the unlikely couple struggles to contain their growing affection for each other, Rafael (after the unpolished Isha asks the nouveau riche woman, Quisha—then, they evoke into melodramatic interjections of Pygmalion and Galatea, who predictably succumb to each other's unexpected charms. But, their cultures cannot commerce is as uphill battle they have to handle—and handle with care. —A case of art imitating life?

DANTES AND RIVERA. Fish-out-of-water physicians.

Mainit and Dingdong's latest one we how he made written all over it—it has manipulative stepmoms, mercenary friends and lovers (Isha Mi, Isabel Oli) straight out of Lady Gaga's version of "bad romance," spandex "frogs" that never let, ones, the picture that's supposed to be a loving heroine with a heart of gold, and a prince charming who finally realizes the error of his ways.

Predictability

If you're looking for unpredictable, you won't find it here. The movie's clockwork predictability doesn't allow the production's formal one of the lush, novel rom-com mold. But, its many holds up better than reported because it doesn't have baby demonic undertones. This was spotted, Reyes fills in tripping rom-com genre mandatory tedious as the story progresses, emerged by characters that suit the two leads in a T.

The film is bubbled by some hammy supporting actors and a dragging third quarter, but it's lies on Dingdong and Marian's chemistry to iron out the kinks. The former is comfortable in Rafael's skin, while Marian comes off with a winning mix of plucky and provincial charm, and conveys her character's confidence without an excess of eye-batting bravado. Her knack for delivering punchlines clicks with the audience.

Moreover, it's a good thing the picture perfect actress isn't required to deliver lines she can't handle when her character is a contractile klutz into the she carried to watch Rafael helping—which under their reversals of fortune more believable than expected.

CLOSEUP. Dished-out standards and operatic arias with equal aura.

Versatile diva was her studio's lifesaver

By Bobi Carvajal

BOOSIE ANTHYM GRATION and Jim Powell captured moviegoers' imaginations in hitting those high notes in your Hollywood musicals, three was Jessica Poitras. We never heard of a name drama years, but she is remembered to this day. Because was as beautiful as she was musically gifted.

The ethereally petite stunner dished out standards and operatic arias with equal aura.

Talent

In 1935, MGM discovered the young singing talent and gave her the name. Jessica. The studio's vocal coach, Andrés de Segurola, a former Metropolitan Opera singer, believed she had a future in opera.

The studio didn't know what to do with their new teenage singers, the other being Kathryn Grayson. So, MGM signed out them in "Every Sunday" to decide which one to keep as a contract actress. Miguel Louis B. Mayer decided to keep both, but his decision came a little late, because Universal had already grabbed Deanna, who was cast in a series of musicals, including "Three Smart Girls."

Bankruptcy

Deanna became a popular young star. Her success in Universal because a successful deal it was said that they saved the studio from bankruptcy. She became Hollywood's box-office queen.

After a while, however, the actress wanted more challenging roles and opted to take on sophisticated characters in "Christmas Holiday" and "Lady on a Train." Sadly, both failed at the wills. By the time, Jessica had already embarked two failed marriages.

As everybody's suppose, Durbin retired in 1948. Efforts were made to lure her back to the spotlight, but to no avail. Two years later, she married film producer, Charles Henri David, moved to a Chateau at the outskirts of Paris, and with three beautiful children.

Swan songs for Fe and Alexis

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SUNRISE AT SAGADA! when I received a text message that my friend Mae Echeñiz-Dalwood's wife, Fe, and granddaughter, Alexis, had "wanted to flee my in reassurance with God, "Ligtasan for Mae.

A graceful woman, Dr. Fe Echeñiz, served for 30 years as dentist at the Department of Trade and Industry. She had her hands with the big C after seven years.

Mae and Fe's 27-year-old granddaughter, Alexis, was a soprano whose lovely voice brought audiences to tears. In September 2007, she was diagnosed with leukemia, but responded well to chemotherapy.

While on remission between 2008 and 2009, Alexis performed in 10 operas and concerts, love and abroad. She sang like an angel. Her talent was discovered by people in the world of God's glorious creation through song.

Then, the dreadful disease returned. It wreaked havoc on Alexis' body. But through all her pain and suffering, she remained cheerful—she would not touch or update her facebook page in her sick bed. She put up a brave fight. She will be remembered for her magical voice, lovely smile and indomitable spirit.

Relationships

It's true love inside to success on a Thursday while Alexis sang her swan song on Sunday. With two cancers on one realm, Dr. Echeñiz' experience makes us contemplate life's impermanence. Life is short, so let's not waste time to care for our lonely ones and nurture our relationships with the people around us.

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines is organizing a memorial concert in honor of Fe and Alexis at the Manila Peninsula on May 19 6:30 p.m.

THE ECHEÑIZES. Indomitable spirit.

Jose Ma. Blandy Mesiano's Photo Safari to Cavite on May 15-16 and to Sagada on Oct 21-23. Call 899-1797 or e-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com.

No disasters from the master this time around

Front page 6

the artistic process. Mark, who is chairman of The Shakespearean Authorship Trust, delivered the most eloquent comments on the matter. Reaves graciously said "Cheers!" and raised her glass of wine in a toast to everyone present.

Sarah shared that she and her legendary mom discussed their iconic characters before the rehearsals. One thing's for sure—the actresses and their director agreed that the ladies aren't resort to obvious gestures to convey that they're playing men and not cisgender persons.

Reyes endorsed himself to everyone, including his character, to encourage more and reporters, with his humorous comments. He admitted, "I was worried that we might do this press conference in costume—because when I am in costume for this movie, I look like I took a really nice nap."

John repeatedly cried in stress that this movie will have no sex to offer them. The intrigue ensues when reality proved Reyes reviewed points and plays that are attributed to William Shakespeare.

But Reyes flat-out declared to laughter, "I play the Earl of Oxford, the author of these works." We'll see in 2011 if the movie bears out his declaration.

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It's anybody's guess . . .

From page 5

pepper-topped Toffee Hicks unexpectedly stepped off with the 6th's 80s. Not enough, her "medley" routine won no audience—but, by much for the popular vote singling out the presented one from a field of dimmer lights.

Explanation

And, what about last year's results? Basically, above the obviously more fleshly gifted Adam Lambert. Expectedly, Lambert's post-"Idol" career is flying higher than Simon. This contradicts the classical "logical" explanation that idiot won because was younger and straight, so he appealed more to the target audience's young demographic.

Still, that's not too bad, compared to the current spectacle of Belarusian male nonpalpable the only female survivor among the 90's remaining finalists. It isn't even certain at this point that she'll end up among the last one or even three contestants—that's how topsided the "All" competition has become.

So, we'll continue to watch how it unfolds—in seconds, as the cute tiny bit—cup or no final round. Still, much less of the excitement and anticipation that we have invested in the musical show's past editions.

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